

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## REVEALED! ENGLAND'S BEST (AND WORST) MANAGERS

EXCLUSIVE SURVEY, PAGE 23-29

## IN YOUR THREE SECTION PAPER TODAY EDUCATION

INCLUDING SIX PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS



# Air strikes begin as Blair says 'We must end vile oppression'

THE FIRST Nato bombs and cruise missiles smashed into targets across Yugoslavia last night as the Western alliance, after months of threats, launched its first attack on a sovereign state to force President Slobodan Milosevic to accept a peace settlement in Kosovo.

Barely an hour after dozens of planes left Aviano base in north Italy, sirens wailed as four "huge" explosions were heard in Kosovo's capital, Pristina, and the city was plunged into darkness. At least eight explosions were reported in the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, some near the military airport at Batajnica.

Other targets included an early-warning and missile defence site at Mount Rumija, on the Adriatic, and Montenegro's airport at Podgorica, which was ablaze last night. Air surveillance facilities at Kopanik, south-west Serbia, were also high on the list. So were missile and radar sites pinpointed by Nato undercover special forces on the ground in Yugoslavia.

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In Brussels, Javier Solana, Nato's secretary-general, confirmed that the attacks - inevitable after Mr Milosevic rejected the peace deal and stepped up his onslaught against the ethnic Albanian majority in the province - had begun. Minutes later President Bill Clinton went on television to warn the world that if the Nato did not act now, the "full-blown" Kosovo crisis would get worse. The offensive was "not risk-free," Mr Clinton told Americans. "It carries risks. But the dangers of acting now are outweighed by risks of

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

failing to act." The strikes had three objectives: to show the alliance's resolve, to deter Mr Milosevic from escalating his attacks, and "if necessary, to damage Serbia's capacity to wage war."

In Berlin, Tony Blair said "we are taking this action for one very simple reason - to stop Milosevic continuing his vile oppression against the Kosovan people."

In London earlier, George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said the attacks would have "forensic" accuracy, but analysts said some civilian casualties were all but certain. British officials admitted Yugoslavia's defences, the most effective in the Balkans, might bring down some aircraft.

A diplomatic flurry continued almost to the last, including a phone consultation between Presidents Clinton and Boris Yeltsin. Russia, like China, opposes the strikes. But the die had by then long been cast, with the firepower of 400 planes and a dozen warships assembled around the Adriatic about to be unleashed.

In Berlin, where a crucial European summit had been hijacked by the Kosovo showdown, the 15 EU leaders said that "on the threshold of the 21st century, Europe could not tolerate a humanitarian catastrophe in its midst." In vain, they appealed to Mr Milosevic, even as the final hours ticked away, to change his mind. "A simple telephone call is all that's needed. Even now the military action could be called off," Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, said. But the call never came.

Instead, the Belgrade authorities shut down the independent B92 radio station, and confiscated vital satellite broadcasting equipment from foreign television networks. Then the Yugoslav president went on television to urge Serbs to resist "by all means" the impending attack. "What is at stake here is the freedom of the entire country, Kosovo was only the door intended to allow foreign troops to come in."



Watchers encouraging United States B-52s yesterday as they took off from RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. Last night, the first Nato bombs hit Yugoslavia Chris Ison

The best service ordinary people could render was to go about their business as usual, Mr Milosevic said. But in Belgrade, business was anything but usual as the realisation sank in that, this time, air strikes were a certainty. Long queues formed at petrol stations and panic buying was reported at many shops. The media published instructions from the city council on food and other necessities to take to air-raid shelters, and on how to signal to rescuers from beneath the rubble of destroyed buildings. "Be calm, do not

panic, but be decisive," was the official mantra of the hour.

In Kosovo, where the latest month-old Serb offensive has driven 65,000 people from their homes, the violence and the misery continued. As civilian and Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas alike waited for deliverance by Nato air power, Serb tanks kept up a two-hour artillery barrage at Blace, close to the border with Macedonia, setting houses ablaze in several nearby villages.

Indeed, among neighbouring countries, nowhere were apprehensions greater than in

Macedonia, with its large ethnic Albanian minority, and where 12,000 Nato troops are already assembled, part of a peacekeeping force that now may never reach Kosovo.

The fear was that once the bombing started, the powerful Yugoslav forces currently bombarding the Kosovo Liberation Army just across the border could launch a retaliatory artillery attack against the Nato units of their own. Macedonia is especially likely to be destabilised by fighting and a further influx of refugees. Although its borders with Kosovo are still

open, the Prime Minister, Ljubo Georgievski, has placed the country's meagre armed forces on full alert, and stressed that Macedonia territory would not be used as a springboard for an allied assault on Kosovo.

In Albania, also bracing for thousands of new refugees, more troops were despatched to its poor and rugged northern frontier region, where rudimentary shelters are being prepared in the event of Yugoslav cross-border reprisals. Even in Italy air defence batteries were moved to the south-east coast in anticipation of

possible attacks on the US warships offshore.

In the worst case, Greece and Turkey could be dragged in: "The fire in Kosovo could engulf the whole Balkans," the Turkish Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, said. A sentiment on which both Mr Clinton and the official Tanjug news agency agreed. Nato had taken an "irrational" decision which might have "tragic consequences for the entire region," Tanjug said.

## Straw faces dilemma over Pinochet

THE LANDMARK ruling by the House of Lords on the fate of General Augusto Pinochet was greeted yesterday by both sides in the dispute as a limited victory but, in reality, it placed the burden of the next crucial decision on the shoulders of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw.

By a majority of 6-1 a panel of seven Law Lords decided that the former dictator of Chile could not claim immunity from prosecution as a former head of state. But in a caveat they drastically restricted the scope and number of charges facing him in an extradition request from Spain.

Giving the judgment, the senior Law Lord, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, invited Mr Straw to become involved. He said: "In view of the very substantial reduction in the number of extraditable charges, the matter will require to be reconsidered by the Secretary of State."

BY KIM SENGUPTA

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said Pinochet, 63, could not be extradited for tortures committed in Chile before late 1988 - when the Criminal Justice Act 1988 made torture an "extraterritorial" crime under British law.

He added that, while Pinochet was entitled to immunity in relation to the charges of conspiracy to murder, he was not entitled to state immunity in relation to the remaining charges.

The bulk of the Spanish allegations against Pinochet related to torture offences in the early months and years after he seized power in a bloody military coup in September 1973.

Those campaigning for General Pinochet to face justice - human rights groups like Amnesty International, Baltasar Garzon, the Spanish judge seeking his extradition



Ana Gonzalez, left, embracing her daughter, Patricia, in Santiago after hearing the verdict on Pinochet AP

and a number of British MPs - welcomed the decision that totalitarian rulers cannot hide under a cloak of immunity. In Madrid, Judge Garzon said he remained confident there was

enough left in the charges to achieve extradition.

But supporters of the former dictator expressed satisfaction that the majority of the crimes against him had been ruled

inadmissible, and said they felt confident he would soon be on his way home to Chile.

The General's lawyers immediately mounted a fresh challenge in the High Court for a writ of habeas corpus, and to seek leave for a judicial review of Mr Straw's decision on 9 December last year to authorise the extradition process. Counsel Clive Nicholls QC, for the Home Secretary, said: "This is the clearest case where the Secretary of State's authority to proceed is fatally flawed."

Lord Justice Laws, sitting with Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham, adjourned the case until Monday to enable the Home Secretary to study the Lords ruling. In a statement, the Home Office said Mr Straw would "reconsider the matter... in the light of the House of Lords judgment... as swiftly as possible."

under immediate pressure from General Pinochet's Tory supporters to let him go. Baroness Thatcher said Mr Straw "should bring an end to this damaging episode and allow Senator Pinochet to return to Chile."

Tory leader William Hague said the ruling was "a sad day for democracy. The handling of this case has soured relations with Chile and destabilised their democracy."

Outside Parliament and outside the Westminster estate in Surrey where Pinochet is under armed police guard, jubilant demonstrators danced after hearing the outcome, while others broke down in tears and hugged each other.

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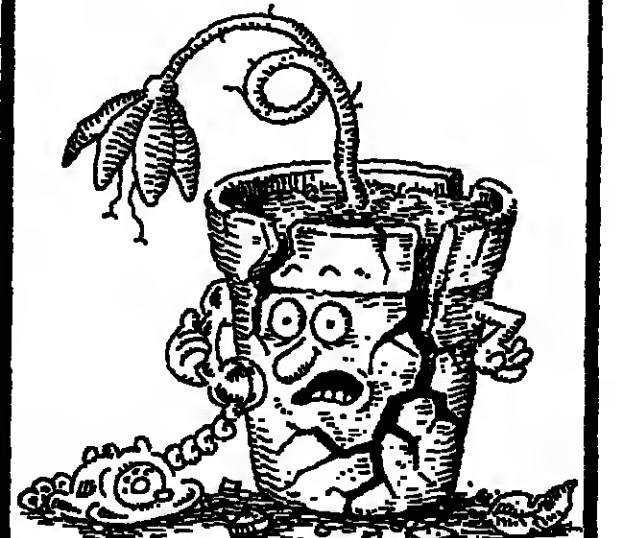
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## KOSOVO OFFENSIVE

I appeal to the world, to all politicians, while there are minutes left, let us convince Clinton not to take this tragic, dramatic step

— Boris Yeltsin

We are taking this action for one reason: to prevent Milosevic from continuing to perpetrate his vile oppression

— Tony Blair

The only right decision we could make was to reject foreign troops coming on to our territory

— Slobodan Milosevic

The president's mood is good. It's easy to be in a good mood when your cause is just

— Boris Milosevic, envoy to Russia and brother of Slobodan

Only firmness can prevent a catastrophe. The dangers of acting now are outweighed by the dangers of failing to act

— President Bill Clinton

Europe cannot tolerate a catastrophe in its midst. An aggressor must know that he will have to pay a high price

— EU declaration

# Milosevic 'must not widen conflict'

## WORLD REACTION

AS THE first fighter jets took off from their bases in Italy, the United States issued a new warning to the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, saying that he should not interpret NATO's use of force as giving him "a free hand" to act elsewhere in Yugoslavia.

European leaders meeting in Berlin also issued a toughly worded statement condemning Serbia's human rights violations in Kosovo, lamenting the plight of its population and warning: "An aggressor must know that he will have to pay a high price. That is the lesson to be learnt from the 20th century."

The statement, however, fell short of formally sanctioning the air strikes and masked the misgivings of several member states. Greece kept its objections to itself, but neutral Sweden voiced doubts. Its foreign minister, Anna Lindh, said that air strikes "would not be covered by international law".

The German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, conceded that the statement was a token of EU "solidarity" rather than a declaration of war on Serbia. All Mr Milosevic had to do to turn back military action was to make a telephone call saying that he was ready to accept and implement the recent Rambouillet peace accord on Kosovo's future status, he added.

In Washington the US State Department spokesman, James Rubin, warned Serbia against any attempt to overthrow the pro-Western government in Yugoslavia's other republic, Montenegro. Mr Rubin said such action would "only fuel regional instability and escalate the conflict with

Nato". He also said casualties in Montenegro from Nato action could not be ruled out.

Mr Rubin indicated not only that US administration discussions had encompassed such an eventuality, but also that Nato operations might go beyond the envisaged air strikes on targets in Serbia and the province of Kosovo. Mr Rubin was punctilious about presenting the action as a Nato operation, not an operation that was US-inspired.

There was only partial clarity, however, on the precise reasons for the decision to use military force. Mr Rubin said that there were three: Mr Milosevic was "not negotiating seriously in the peace process", he was "not complying with the October agreements" and he had launched "new aggression" on Kosovo.

He said that there were two main objectives: "to seriously degrade the Yugoslav's ability to wage war against Kosovo Albanians and to deter any offensive they may have in mind". He said, however, that there was no expectation that force would "get the peace treaty signed" — the agreement negotiated in Rambouillet and signed by the Kosovar Albanians last week.

For Mr Clinton, who spoke to a predominantly black audience in commemoration of Ron Brown, the US Trade Secretary killed when his plane crashed in Croatia several years ago, the main objective was humanitarian: to halt the suffering in Kosovo. Mr Clinton was expected to make another statement after the first strikes last night in an address to the nation from the Oval Office.

MARY DEJEVSKY AND IMRE KARACS



Ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo waiting to register at a refugee centre in Macedonia

Fehim Demir

## 'Europe cannot tolerate this'

THIS IS the text of a statement released yesterday by EU heads of state and government on the Kosovo crisis:

The European Council is deeply concerned about the failure of the mediation efforts... to persuade the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to accept a ceasefire in Kosovo and a political solution to the Kosovo conflict. Over one quarter of a million Kosovars are now homeless because of repression carried out by Belgrade's security forces. 65,000 have

been driven from their homes in the last month [and] 25,000 since the peace talks broke down in Paris last Friday...

The Yugoslav leadership under President Milosevic has persistently refused to engage seriously in the search for a political solution... Finally, the Yugoslav security forces are conducting military operations against the civilian population in Kosovo in contravention of

the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1199.

On the threshold of the 21st century, Europe cannot tolerate a humanitarian catastrophe in its midst. It cannot be permitted that the predominant population of Kosovo is collectively deprived of its rights and subjected to grave human rights abuses. We, the countries of the European Union, are under a moral obligation to ensure that

indiscriminate behaviour and violence, which became tangible in the massacre at Racak in January 1999, are not repeated. An aggressor must know that he will have to pay a high price. That is the lesson to be learnt from the 20th century...

Our policy is neither directed against the Yugoslav or Serb population... It is directed against security forces cynically and brutally fighting a part of their own population. We want to put an end to these outrages...

## EU LEADERS' STATEMENT

JE 5/191

## 'Why we have drawn the line over Kosovo'

### WESTMINSTER

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the Defence Secretary, told MPs last night that Slobodan Milosevic was "hell bent on war" and that NATO had no alternative but to respond with its air attack.

There was overwhelming support for the action, but many MPs privately said the backing masked a deep cross-party unease at Westminster at the objectives of the air attacks on Serbian forces.

Tony Blair yesterday prepared public opinion for casualties. "I have not attempted to conceal from people that with any military action there are risks... but the alternative is to allow him (Milosevic) to carry on repression," he said.

In spite of renewed assurances from the Defence Secretary that British forces will not be drawn into a land battle, there was concern at Westminster that British troops will be dragged into a Balkan war by Milosevic to break public support in the West for the offensive.

"It's not like the Gulf War where people were either for or against the bombing," said one prominent Labour backbencher. "There was a small group of Labour MPs who opposed it. This time, the unease goes right across the parties."

As the final countdown for the bombing began, doubts were being raised about the objectives of the air strikes. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for Tony Blair who was attending the EU Berlin summit, faced sharp questioning by the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, over the political objectives.

Mr Blair said yesterday: "The objectives are very clear indeed. It is to curb Milosevic's ability to wage war, to repress the civilian population in Kosovo."

That means ministers will be able to claim some success after destroying the military assets being used to mount the attacks on Kosovo villages, but, significantly, ministers are not promising that air strikes alone will stop the crimes against hu-

manity. The Prime Minister returns from Berlin today to renewed questions about what will be done if the air bombardment fails. On Tuesday, Mr Blair ruled out a land battle, telling the Commons this would require more than 100,000 alliance troops — nearly the whole of the British army — to wage a land war against the Serbian army.

Military chiefs have assured Mr Blair they are confident the more limited objectives are achievable. The Defence Secretary yesterday told the cross-



Robertson: 'Milosevic is hell bent on war'

party Commons Defence Select Committee he had sufficient forces to meet all the potential action Milosevic might take.

If troops in Macedonia or Bosnia were attacked, Mr Robertson said: "They [the Serbs] would be attacking people who are engaged in peacekeeping and represent no threat to them. It would be gross violation of international law. To do so would lead to an immediate and considerable response in self-defence from us."

He added: "What we have tried to do in Bosnia and in Kosovo is to tell those who would use violence to achieve historical missions or day-to-day land aggression cannot get away with it. In Kosovo, we have to draw the line."

COLIN BROWN

## Why Does Your Memory Fail You?

Advertisement



A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating; whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."

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get another appointment — even if you could learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. You may be able to imprint whole books on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you could even be more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do.

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To acquaint all readers of The Independent with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just telephone 0800 298 7070 free, or fill in and return the coupon on Page 25 (no stamp is needed). Or write to: Memory and Concentration Studies (Dept. ID397), FREEPOST 198, Manchester M60 3DL.



### FORECAST

General situation: Northern England, Wales and the West Country will have outbreaks of locally heavy rain. East and south-east England will have early sunny spells and it will be mild but cloudy with rain arriving by lunchtime. Meanwhile, Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Much of Scotland will also have showers, the heaviest and most frequent in the north and west.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England: Limited early sunny spells then clouding over bringing rain this afternoon. A moderate southerly wind. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F).

West: S England, Midlands: A dry but cloudy start with rain moving in, lasting into the afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).

Channel Is, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain, turning heavy locally. A light and variable wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

East: N & NE England: Rain breaking out this morning but a few sunny spells in the far north this afternoon. A light south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (48-52F).

NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Sunny spells and showers, most of them in the hills. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).

NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, N & W Isles: Rather cool and showery with limited sunny breaks. Some of the showers will be heavy and will turn wintry over the peaks. A fresh west to north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

N Ireland: Some heavy showers moving in but some sunshine too, the best in the south and east. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

### OUTLOOK

Colder weather in Scotland and Northern Ireland will spread south and east tomorrow. The east will be largely cloudy with spells of rain. The west will be drier with sunny spells. Some rain is possible in the south-west on Saturday. Most other areas will be dry with reasonable sunny spells.

### TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth bridge. Until 23rd June 2001. Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J8 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraflow. Until 23rd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield. Contraflow is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd, Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks inbound. Diversions in place. Until 1st June. Co. Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Ommurmy. Roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until 1st August. Derbyshire: A6 Between Derby Southern Bypass (A50) and Shardlow Road roundabout. East of Alveston. Contraflow for work on new A50. Until 15th October. AA Roadwatchers Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

BRITAIN TODAY			
LIGHTING UP			
Belfast	6.46pm to 6.12am		
Birmingham	6.28pm to 5.57am		
Bristol	6.31pm to 6.01am		
Cardiff	6.40pm to 6.05am		
London	6.21pm to 5.51am		
Manchester	6.31pm to 5.58am		
Newcastle	6.29pm to 5.53am		
HIGH TIDES			
	AM	PM	HT
Avonmouth	12.14	10.8	10.0
Cork	11.34	3.7	-
Doverport	11.44	4.8	-
Dunfermline	4.38	5.8	5.19
Don Longshore	5.43	3.6	6.27
Edinburgh	11.15	4.2	11.46
Greenock	5.44	3.1	6.33
Hartlepool	5.14	3.6	5.49
Holyhead	4.06	4.7	4.57
Isle of Man	-	-	12.09
Kings Lynn	-	-	12.24
Larne	8.31	4.6	5.36
Liverpool	4.50	7.8	5.36
Millport Haven	-	-	12.17
Newquay	11.18	5.5	11.56
Perth	-	-	12.24
Portsmouth	5.09	4.1	6.03
Swansea	1.42	3.8	2.26
Swansea Bay	10.58	4.7	10.53
Wick	5.04	2.9	5.54
Wick	5.04	2.9	5.54
Height measured in metres			
AIR QUALITY			
Today's readings			
London	Good	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good
SUN & MOON			
Sun rises:	05.53		
Sun sets:	18.21		
Moon rises:	11.22		
Moon sets:	02.31		
Full Moon:	March 31st		
WEATHERLINE			
For the latest forecasts call 0801 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)			
RAIN OR SHINE...			
CYCLONE VANCE, the most powerful cyclone to hit Australia, has finally left the continent for the Southern Ocean after wrecking hundreds of homes along a 1,056-mile path of destruction.			
Cyclone Vance, once a maximum "category five" storm with record wind gusts of up to 165mph has now been downgraded to a depression. The storm almost wiped out the small fishing town of Exmouth, 745 miles north of Perth.			

YESTERDAY			
EXTREMES			
Warmest Marham 19C (65F)			
Cooldest (day): Fair Isle 7C (45F)			
Wettest Oban 16.0 mm			
Driest: Elgin 7.3 hrs			
For 24hrs to 2pm Wednesday			
	Sun	Rain	Max °C
Aberdeen	0.7	2.8	9
Anglesey	0.6	4.0	11
Armagh	0.3	4.6	10
Belfast	0.5	0.5	13
Birmingham	7.3	0.5	14
Bournemouth	0.3	0.3	12
Bristol	5.0	0.3	12
Buxton	0.3	16.0	10
Cardiff	1.3	0.3	12
Cardron	7.6	-	14
Cromer	3.0	1.0	14
Edinburgh	1.0	0.3	13
Exmouth	5.2	0	12
Falmouth	4.7	0.3	12
Folkestone	6.8	0.3	14
Glasgow	0.2	1.5	14
Haslemere	9.2	0	15
Jersey	2.6	0.3	14
Isle of Man	1.9	0.3	12
Isle of Wight	0.4	0.3	13
Kendal	0	0.3	11
Leeds	3.5	0.3	13
Leicester	5.4	0.3	13
Leicester	5.4	0.3	13
Littlehampton	9.4	0.3	16
London	6.0	0.3	15
Lowestoft	2.6	0.3	13
Manchester	0	3.3	12
Margate	3.4	0.3	14
Metcombe	1.5	0.3	12
Newcastle	3.6	1.3	15
Newquay	0	0.3	10
Norwich	0.9	0.3	15
Oxford	4.4	0.3	15
Ross-on-Wye	4.0	0	14
Salcombe	-	-	-
Scarborough	1.2	1.8	13
Shrewsbury	4.6	0.3	12
Southend	-	-	-
Southport	-	0.8	10
Stornoway	0	3.8	10
Swansea	2.2	0	15
Tenby	6.9	0	13
Torquay	2.9	0	13
Weymouth	-	-	-
Weymouth	-	-	-
24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Tuesday			
Information by PA WeatherCentre			



Low W and S will move slowly north-eastwards. Low V will become more developed as it drifts east. High C is slow moving.

# THE WORLD YESTERDAY

closely, daytime: 1000h; night: 00h; 06h; 12h; 18h; 24h; 30h; 36h; 42h; 48h; 54h; 60h; 66h; 72h; 78h; 84h; 90h; 96h; 102h; 108h; 114h; 120h; 126h; 132h; 138h; 144h; 150h; 156h; 162h; 168h; 174h; 180h; 186h; 192h; 198h; 204h; 210h; 216h; 222h; 228h; 234h; 240h; 246h; 252h; 258h; 264h; 270h; 276h; 282h; 288h; 294h; 300h; 306h; 312h; 318h; 324h; 330h; 336h; 342h; 348h; 354h; 360h; 366h; 372h; 378h; 384h; 390h; 396h; 402h; 408h; 414h; 420h; 426h; 432h; 438h; 444h; 450h; 456h; 462h; 468h; 474h; 480h; 486h; 492h; 498h; 504h; 510h; 516h; 522h; 528h; 534h; 540h; 546h; 552h; 558h; 564h; 570h; 576h; 582h; 588h; 594h; 600h; 606h; 612h; 618h; 624h; 630h; 636h; 642h; 648h; 654h; 660h; 666h; 672h; 678h; 684h; 690h; 696h; 702h; 708h; 714h; 720h; 726h; 732h; 738h; 744h; 750h; 756h; 762h; 768h; 774h; 780h; 786h; 792h; 798h; 804h; 810h; 816h; 822h; 828h; 834h; 840h; 846h; 852h; 858h; 864h; 870h; 876h; 882h; 888h; 894h; 900h; 906h; 912h; 918h; 924h; 930h; 936h; 942h; 948h; 954h; 960h; 966h; 972h; 978h; 984h; 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# Calm before the storm in city that thought it would never be bombed

## ON STREETS OF BELGRADE

"THEY'LL NEVER bomb us," said a man in torn jeans only hours before Nato's massive bombardment began. He was shovelling soil into the back of a lorry beside a main road. "They don't have the balls for it." His friend disagreed, "I think they will," he said, against the din of the rush hour traffic. "But they have no reason to."

The men are stonemasons and bricklayers from Crna Trava in the far south of Serbia near the Bulgarian and Macedonian borders and not far from Kosovo. They won't give their names, but want their region mentioned. "It's famous for its stonemasons," one man explains. "The best in all Serbia."

Like most people on the streets of the capital, they say their president is right not to sign the Kosovo peace accords, which would give self-rule to Kosovo with its large Albanian majority.

Further down George Washington Avenue, in the centre Belgrade, Goran, Velko and Dragan, all aged six or seven, were playing football in their school playground. "Everyone says they're going to bomb us," Velko said. "But I think they won't do it. I think they're just mucking around."

Yesterday was almost a normal working day in Belgrade. But not quite. From early morning people could be seen reading their newspapers as they walked down the street, rather than at home or in a cafe.

And for those who dislike the Milosevic government an important part of their daily routine disappeared - listening to B92 Radio, the most influential of all the independent media. The station was raided by police and officials from the telecommunications ministry early on Tuesday morning and taken off the air.

Until now its programmes have been re-broadcast by local radio stations throughout Serbia. "With one blow the independent media has been decapitated," a journalist at



A driver waiting in a petrol queue in Belgrade. Supplies have been re-routed to the Yugoslav armed forces by the government while the crisis goes on. Andrei Isakovici

the weekly magazine *Vreme* said. *Vreme* could be under threat when this week's issue goes to print tonight.

The satellite station of the European broadcast union used to feed television programmes out of Serbia. It was also closed down by police yesterday. They also confiscated a BBC camera.

Serbia's independent media in Serbia, already crushed by a draconian law on information enacted last October, is bracing

itself for more closures, and perhaps the detention of journalists. "There is no mercy for deserters, for those who disseminate panic, who spread false rumours, or who in any way diminish the defence capabilities of the country," said Vojislav Seselj, head of the Serbian Radical Party and deputy prime minister in the Serbian government.

The "state of the imminent threat of war," declared on Tuesday evening, has already

given the government some powers to curtail civil liberties. The more serious measure - the declaration of a state of war - would allow the government to mobilise the whole male adult population. Then do almost anything it wishes.

But many in Belgrade still doubt it will come to that. "They might mobilise everyone in southern Serbia," said Goran, 32, an engineer. "But they wouldn't dare mobilise the people of Belgrade. They are too

afraid of us taking our guns and going up to shoot a few people in Dedinje, before we go to Kosovo." Dedinje is a smart residential hilltop above the city and home to many senior officials, including Slobodan Milosevic.

The loyalty of the army is discussed in opposition circles. A purge of the military leadership took place earlier this week. That followed another purge last December, when the commander in chief, Momcilo

Perisic, was replaced. He had publicly criticised the regime for "trying to go to war with the whole world".

The officer corps of the Yugoslav army has been increasingly politicised in the past years, with top positions going to officers who are also members of JUL - the Party of the Yugoslav Left, run by president Milosevic's powerful wife, Mira. A cartoon in *Vreme* showed Slobodan and Mira, their arms around each other's shoulders,

allow their airspace to be used will be exposed to retaliation." Lazanski went on to sketch one of the scenarios that Nato commanders fear - attacks on Nato troops in Bosnia and Macedonia, and on naval vessels in the Adriatic.

In the past week, the generals have repeatedly referred to the heroic exploits of the Serbian army in the First and Second World Wars, and far back into history in the rebellions against the Turkish rulers.

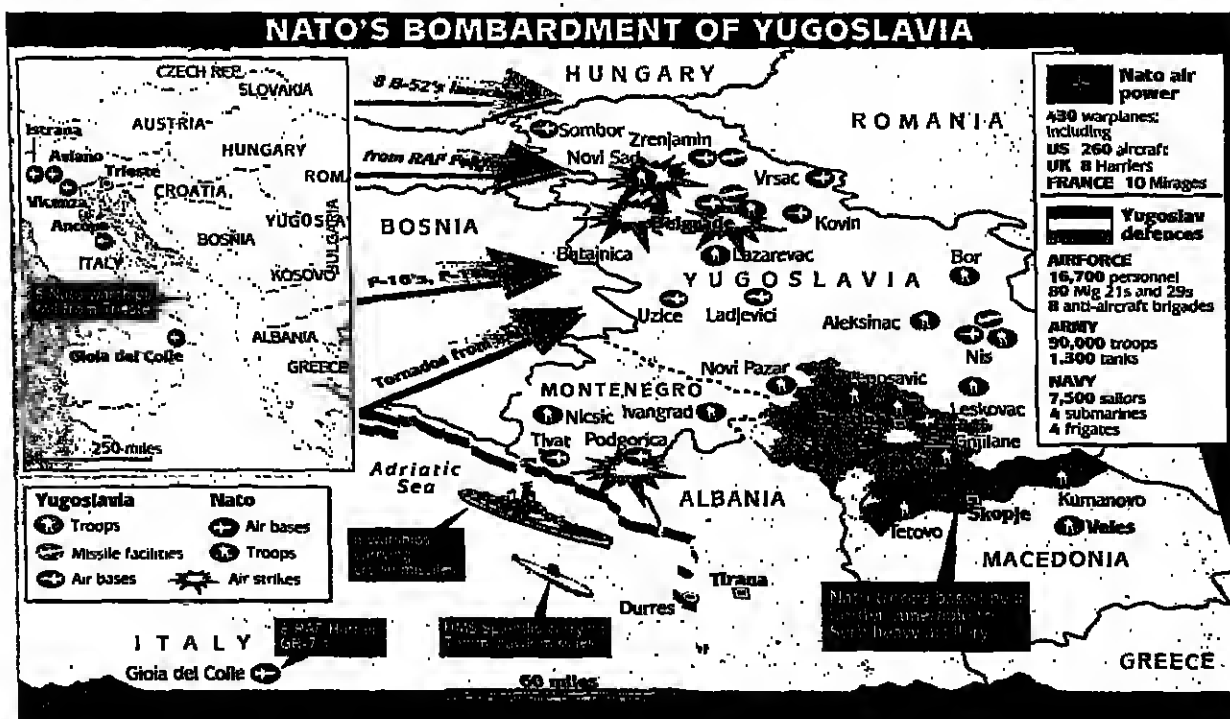
On Kalemegdan Hill overlooking Belgrade, the military museum is housed in the old fortress. Outside, in a grassy moat, grey painted tanks and artillery pieces, mostly relics from the Second World War, point their barrels harmlessly at the skies. Most are covered in graffiti - declarations of eternal love, swear words, and "Fight war, not wars".

Inside the museum there is the order, issued by the commander of the 2nd Battalion, the 10th Regiment, and addressed to the defenders of Belgrade against Austria-Hungary on 9 October 1915. "Precisely at 3pm the enemy is to be... torn to pieces by our hand grenades and bayonets. The honour of Belgrade... is to be upheld. Soldiers, heroes... our regiment is sacrificed for the honour of the fatherland." Others like referring to the German air attack on 6 April 1941 when large parts of the city were damaged and thousands were killed.

But yesterday many Belgraders were worried about the fate of their sons in Yugoslavia's army. Of the 114,000 soldiers, the vast majority are conscripts serving 13 months' military service. Until yesterday they were most afraid of them dying from the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army. Now their fears are rebuked by the thought that they could be killed by a Cruise missile fired from a Nato plane or warship.

"The innocent always die first," a mourner at the funeral of a young Yugoslav army soldier who was killed in the fighting in Kosovo told me last week.

NICK THORPE



## Ground troops prepare for Serb retaliation

### MILITARY STRATEGY

BRITISH AND other Nato ground troops in Macedonia were preparing for a Serb counter-offensive last night in the aftermath of allied air strikes.

The troops, part of the 10,000 Nato advance force already in place, are the most vulnerable to retaliation. Defence sources say Serbs in neighbouring Kosovo have moved units of heavy artillery within range, and possess former Soviet-made Katyusha rockets.

Nato troops on peace implementation duty in Bosnia could also become targets. The Serbs have repeatedly said they will respond with force against Nato if attacked.

In Macedonia, the main base for the 4,200 British contingent is at Veles, more than 100km from the Yugoslav border. But units in the capital, Skopje, and Kumanovo are within the 25km-range of Serb guns. These include the provisional headquarters for Lieutenant-General Sir Mike Jackson, commander of Nato's allied rapid reaction force

(ARRC), and the reinforced company of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

These troops were originally part of the French-led extraction force, on stand-by to rescue unarmed monitors from Kosovo. But as all the monitors have left, they will become part of the larger Nato force now assembling.

The main French contingent of 2,500 troops is also based at Kumanovo. The German force of about 2,700 troops is in Tetovo, also in the danger zone.

Defence sources yesterday conceded there was a threat to troops there. "But we believe that the threat is not so great that we can't cope with it," said one. "We can't guarantee the safety of our troops, but believe we have a very robust defence and a robust response if necessary."

That response rests on three main areas. The dispersal of the majority of the Nato force so

that it is outside artillery range; Nato warplanes flying combat missions along the Kosovo-Macedonia border in order to attack any hostile units; and the ability to return "counter battery fire" with Nato's own heavy guns.

The latter raises the possibility of artillery duels being fought across the border, effectively signalling the beginning of a land war. If such retaliation was necessary, it would primarily be carried out by the battery of six AS90 155mm guns of the 4 Regiment Royal Artillery which is part of the British-led armoured battle group.

Other units in the group, part of 4 Armoured Brigade, include a squadron of 14 Challenger tanks from the King's Royal Hussars, and a strong company of the Irish Guards equipped with Warrior armoured fighting vehicles. A second battle group, which would boost the British Army

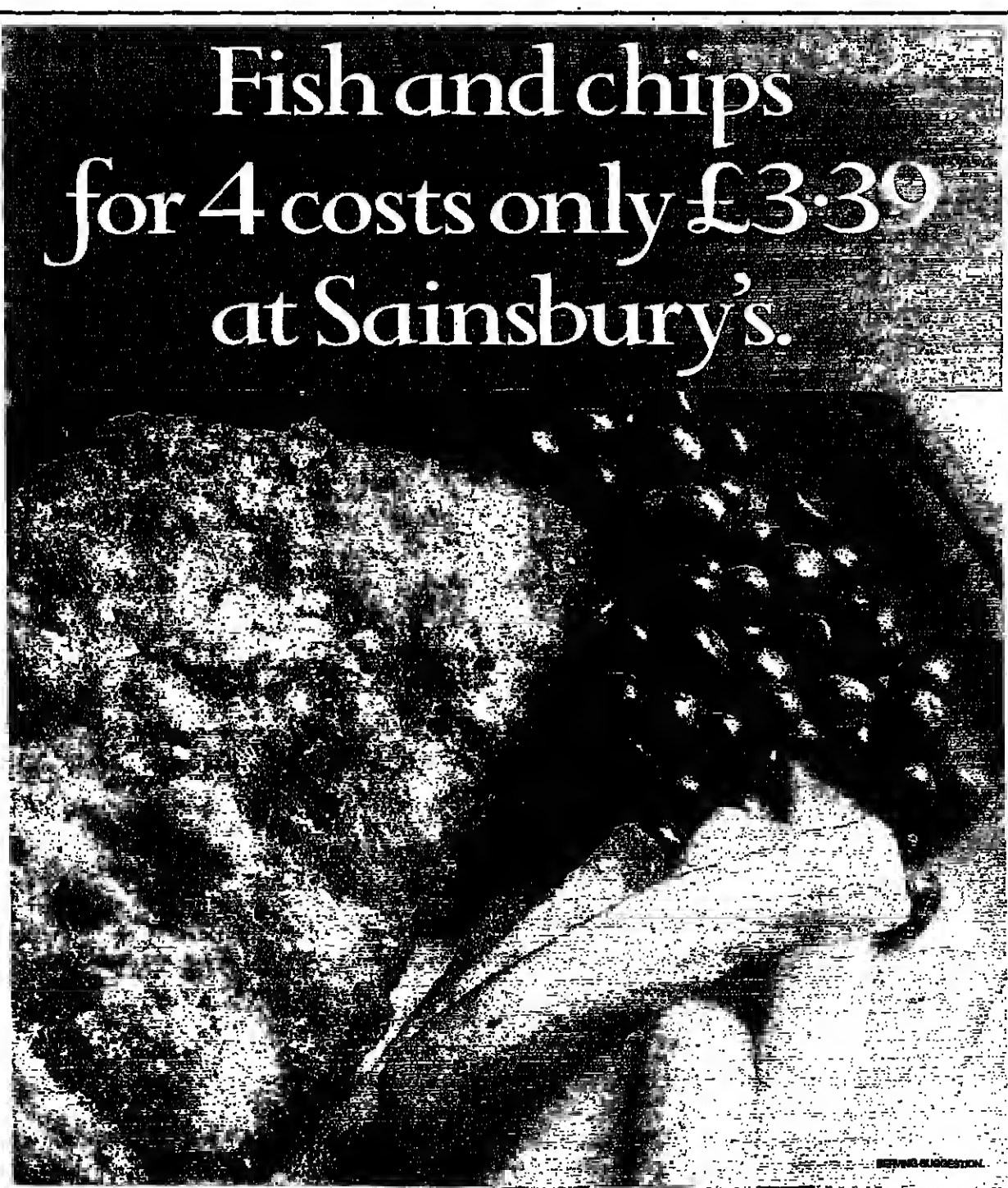
presence to over 8,000, is on stand-by in Germany.

Political and military sources have repeatedly claimed these land forces will be used only for peace-keeping duties. The main thrust of offensive action against the Serbs will come from the 400 allied aircraft, predominantly American, based in Italy and other European bases, and from Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from naval vessels.

These include the British nuclear submarine HMS Splendid. With cruise missiles launched from US B-52 bombers, flying from Britain, this first wave of attacks will be against the Serbian integrated air defence system.

Follow-up attacks from manned aircraft would then target army and special police units operating in Kosovo. The plans allow for "breathing spaces" to be introduced at any stage to let the Serbs agree to allow peace-keeping troops into the province.

JOHN DAVIDSON  
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# Luftwaffe set for war after 54 years

GERMANY'S TABOO

FEAR STALKS Germany, the fear of German soldiers going into battle in a distant field. It has not happened for 54 years, but over the skies of Kosovo, any day now, a German is almost sure to fire in anger, breaking a national taboo of two generations.

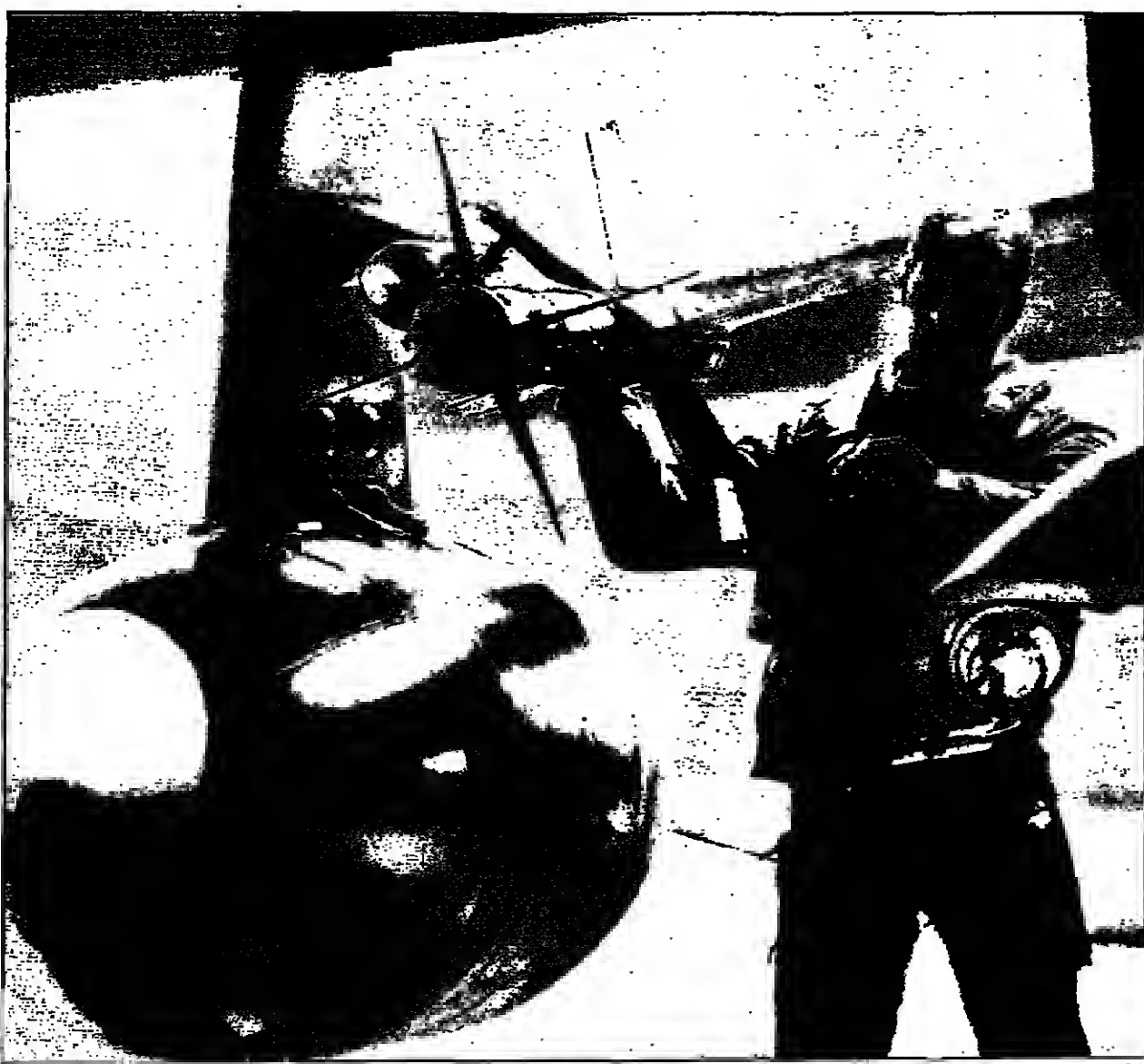
The Germans have ducked out of previous conflicts with great skill. In place of troops, they had sent a cheque to the allied battalions that liberated Kuwait. And although they had loudly proclaimed their special interest in the Balkans, they declined to contribute to the defence of Sarajevo and the other so-called "safe havens" of Bosnia. When the war came to an end in 1995, Germany sent in army doctors and nurses, stationing them at a safe distance from the main conflagration.

But now the Germans are coming. A fleet of 14 Luftwaffe Tornados is standing by at the Italian base of Piacenza. Their missiles were armed a year ago, after the German parliament, the Bundestag, voted to approve German participation in a Nato strike. Since then, the pilots have been watching de-

velopments closely on CNN. German politicians are not sending them in lightly. Discussions about whether the constitution allowed Germans to kill abroad in situations not directly endangering the Fatherland have been going on at various intensities for decades. With a leftist government now in power, the marching orders are particularly ironic. The Greens coalesced 20 years ago largely around their pacifist sentiment. Yet it is now a Green Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, who must tell the country that bombing the Serbs is the only way. Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, another former peacekeeper, explained the decision in the simplest words: "There is no other choice."

The 14 German Tornados will be in the first waves of any attacks. Their mission is to destroy Serbian air defences and radar installations, softening the enemy for the heavier bombers of the US.

That is where the Germans draw the line. To illustrate the government's lack of enthusiasm for the Kosovo mission, Defence Minister Rudolf



A German pilot checks the armament on his Tornado at the San Samiano airbase in northern Italy

ANSA

Scharping has already made it clear that German ground troops will be kept out of the action. About 3,000 soldiers of the Bundeswehr are camped in Macedonia - half near the Kosovo border, ostensibly looking after the OSCE monitors who are no longer there.

The other half are, in principle, available for a Nato mission invited by Slobodan Milosevic into Kosovo. As that

is not likely to happen, the Leopards lack spare parts are not without foundation.

There are also rumours that the German encampments are vulnerable to Serbian air attacks. The government says this is nonsense, but is rushing Slinger air defence missiles to Macedonia, just in case.

The hardware will probably work. No one is quite certain, however, how the soldiers will

react. Unlike other forces, the German army and Luftwaffe are governed by the central dogma of "Innere Führung" - "internal leadership". Because of their history, German soldiers are encouraged to place moral considerations above military commands. If they don't like the order, they can jump it. The folks back home will understand.

IMRE KARACS

## Russian anger after alliance ignores pleas

MOSCOW REACTION

THE FIRST Nato bomb to crater Yugoslav soil will go down in history as the moment when Russia realised exactly how far it has fallen since it bestrode the world as a super-power counterbalancing American might.

The alliance refusal to listen to Moscow's pleas to spare its Slavic cousins marks a new low in Russia's ambivalent relationship with the United States.

Russia, to its horror, finds itself cast not as an enemy but as a sponging lightweight.

Kosovo has turned Russian reservations about the West into concrete resentment and deep suspicion likely to influence policy for years.

Yesterday in Moscow outrage echoed across the political spectrum, moderated only by the humiliating recognition that Russia must turn again to the West for loans. After 11th hour calls to the US President Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac of France, Boris Yeltsin appeared on national TV to appeal to Nato to stay its hand. He spoke ominously of the world facing "a war in Europe and possibly something greater".

The Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, hinted about arming the Serbs, saying a Nato attack could render the UN arms embargo void. Marshal Igor Sergeev, the Defence Minister, talked of Yugoslavia as a "second Vietnam", and placed the armed forces on a "higher alert." From the ascendant Communists there were calls for Russian

military assistance, from the nationalists blusters about restoring a Stalinist dictatorship so Russia should not be so humiliated again.

The mood is one of deep grievance. This week Mr Clinton was to meet the Russian Premier, Yevgeny Primakov, but the Premier's plane turned round in mid-Atlantic after he concluded Nato bombing was imminent.

Before, the American president had spoken of "the right kind" of relationship with the Russians, who could be "great partners". There is not much evidence he is willing to back his words with actions.

Now Washington mixes hardball with a strategy of ignoring Russia. Moscow's protests over the Anglo-American bombing of Iraq fell on deaf ears. The US hectors Moscow over weapons technology transfers to Iran. The International Monetary Fund lectures them on how to run a market economy, despite the fund helping to cause August's crash.

Russia's economy is now the size of Belgium's. But their 30,000 nuclear warheads and chemical weapons cannot be overlooked. Bill Clinton said Russia's 40,000 nuclear scientists should do "peaceful, good things, not barter their services to other countries to cause trouble". That fine sentiment will not be furthered by Nato bombing Yugoslavia.

PHIL REEVES

## Vietnam veteran who became Nato's military 'boss'

IN THE late 1960s two ultra-bright boys from Little Rock went to Oxford as Rhodes scholars. One worked hard, took his degree and left early to serve in Vietnam. The other did not inhale, did not get a degree, did not get drafted and is now President of the United States.

That first Arkansas is called Wesley Clark. At 54 he is two

years older than Bill Clinton, his commander-in-chief. More to the point, he is a four-star general in the US Army and, as Nato's top uniformed officer, the man giving the orders for the bombing of Yugoslavia.

Clark, "The Boss" to his aides, is that quintessentially American creature, the political soldier. A British general will have as little as possible to

### THE COMMANDER

do with "political walls." But since that stint in Vietnam, where he was wounded and awarded the Silver Star, Clark's rise owes as much to his skills at dealing with politics of defence as his ability as a soldier. After Vietnam he worked in the White House under Alexan-

der Haig, Nixon's chief of staff, and future Nato supreme commander and secretary of state. Clark and Clinton have white-grey hair in common, but little else. Where Clinton tends to sloppiness and verbosity, he is disciplined and weighs every word. And his pri-

vate life truly is private. Until the Balkans brought them together, the Arkansas paths had barely crossed. But, as Bosnia became an increasing US diplomatic priority, Clark emerged as a key presidential adviser. Later he was Richard Holbrooke's closest aide during the 1995 Dayton conference. Thanks to those talks and several recent missions to Bel-

grade, he knows his foe, Slobodan Milosevic, uncommonly well. But he has failed to sway the Yugoslav President with words. He must now do it by war, and remember enough of the Vietnam tragedy to keep Nato out of a similarly disastrous entanglement in the Balkans.

If he does, the ladder may stretch higher still for Wes-

Clark. The logical military promotion, to chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, is probably out, since the army has filled the job twice in succession. But there are political possibilities too: as national security adviser on who knows, even secretary of state in a future administration, be it Republican or Democrat.

RUPERT CORNWELL



Clark: a political soldier

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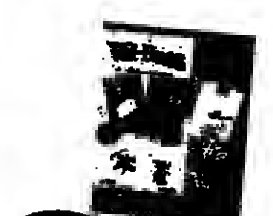
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## The hair, the make-up and the money's gone: David Sylvian on life after Japan

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# Seven million struggle to read or count

**SEVEN MILLION** adults in Britain have serious problems with reading and maths - a bigger proportion than in any other country apart from Poland and Ireland, a report to be published today will state.

About 2 million can barely read or add up at all, according to Sir Claus Moser, who chaired the government working party on literacy and numeracy. One in five cannot find a plumber in the Yellow Pages. One in three adults cannot calculate the area of a room that is 21 by 14 feet, even with a calculator, and one in four cannot work out what change they should receive from £2 when they buy goods worth £1.35.

**By JUDITH JUDD**  
*Education Editor*

He will comment that the situation is "a sad reflection on past decades of schooling," and add that this is the first time a government has decided to grasp the problem.

The report suggests that the Government will need to be spending about \$600 a year by

**LITERACY LEVELS**

% of adults with literacy skills at lowest levels

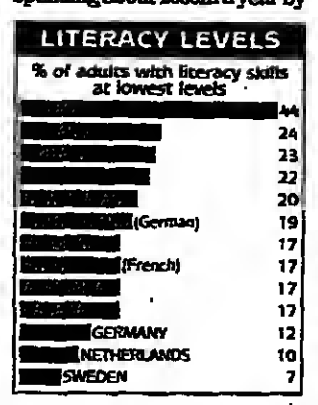
Country	% of adults with literacy skills at lowest levels
Uganda	44
Kenya	24
India	23
China	22
U.S.	20
U.S. (1980)	19

cy, basic-skills courses need to be more easily available in public clubs and factories, the report will state.

One of the biggest challenges for the Government is to fund basic-skills courses in the workplace. Sir Claus will state in the report: "Improving their basic skills can enable people to earn more, to spend more, to help the economy to grow faster. The benefits to industry and the economy may be hard to calculate but they must be vast."

For individuals, numeracy and literacy problems "can hardly be a surer way to social exclusion".

Basic-skills courses need to



Surveys show that 23 per cent of Britons have serious problems with literacy and 23 per cent with numeracy, compared with 12 per cent and 7 per cent respectively for Germans. In literacy Sweden does best, followed by the Netherlands. In numeracy the Germans and Swedes top the league.

Today ministers are expected to announce a drive to work towards the report's recommendation of cutting the 7 million figure by half. Sir Claus will state that the figures are "shocking" and point out that the figure for 19-year-olds is only slightly lower than that for older people.

Country	Percentage
FRANCE	17
GERMANY	17
NETHERLANDS	12
SWEDEN	7

Ministers have promised to double to 500,000 a year the number of people helped with literacy and numeracy. Today they are expected to point to existing initiatives, including £44m for the University for Industry to tackle basic skills and £6m for family literacy and numeracy initiatives.

The new literacy and numeracy hours in schools are designed to ensure that pupils reach a basic standard before they leave primary school.



Former editor Amanda Platell, the new face of Tory party PR **Geraint Lewis**

# Tory jitters as Hague sacks spin doctor

**WILLIAM HAGUE** sacked his press secretary yesterday in an attempt to revive the Conservative Party's flagging fortunes and improve his own poor image with the voters.

Gregor Mackay, 30, was replaced as Mr Hague's chief spin doctor by Amanda Platell, 42, a former editor of the *Sunday Express*, and ex managing editor of *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*. She is not a member of the Conservative Party.

**BY ANDREW GRICE**  
Political Editor

Mackay after press reports that the Tory leader might dismiss "old-guard" figures from his frontbench team who reminded voters of John Major's government. Mr Mackay was also blamed for a symbolic Conservative Party conference in October.

Ms Platell, who starts work



### Mackay: Has paid for not making Hague interesting

Mr Mackay's dismissal was a sign of jitters in the Tory hierarchy. Even Mr Hague's allies admit he may face a crisis of confidence in his leadership if the party does badly in local elections in May and the European parliament poll in June.

Ms Platell dismissed rumours that she supported the single currency at a recent public meeting.

She admitted being briefed by Labour officials before going on BBC's *Question Time* in 1994, saying this was standard practice at the Labour-supporting *Doity Mirror*.

Today as the party's head of news and media, said: "I have a very good understanding of Middle England and what the voters there care about. As a woman, I will be able to bring in a fresh perspective."

She lost her job at the *Sunday Express*, which has swung behind Labour since the general election, during fall-out over an interview with a Brazilian friend of Peter Mandelson, the former cabinet minister.

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# Protesters' joyous as 'justice is done'

## LONDON REACTION

IN THE public gallery of the House of Lords, Ariel Dorfman, a Chilean playwright, punched the air and shouted "justicia!". Outside the building, the ruling was greeted with euphoria by anti-Pinochet demonstrators huddled around their transistor radios.

Five months after they first mounted a bedraggled picket outside Parliament, the protesters finally had the outcome they wanted.

When the news came through at about 2.20pm, they erupted into a blur of leaping, singing bodies. Champagne was sprayed over the crowd. For this group of refugees, former prisoners and relatives of "disappeared" Chileans, the result was simple: Pinochet was on his way to Spain.

But the sting in the tail of the decision - the ruling that General Augusto Pinochet is not answerable for charges of human rights abuses before 1988 - enabled his supporters to claim victory too.

Baroness Thatcher, one of the general's most loyal allies, said it would be "quite wrong" to keep him in Britain. "The judgment puts the matter back into the hands of the Home Secretary," she said. "He should now bring to an end this damaging episode and allow Senator Pinochet to return to Chile."

Lord Lamont of Lerwick, another vociferous supporter, said: "The whole thing is a farce. It should never have got this far."

Maria Anjelica Christie, a right-wing Chilean senator and close friend of the former dictator, said: "We hope very strongly that this will bring an end to what has brought so much grief and suffering to our country." Senator Christie, who saw General Pinochet yesterday, said she thought he would be "happy" with the verdict. "He is a very strong man and in good health," she said. "He was prepared for this. He was a soldier. This will make him feel more at peace."

From time to time, over the months, there have been Pinochet supporters too outside Parliament, most of them well-heeled, middle-aged women wearing fur coats and brandishing glossy leaflets. Yesterday they were thin on the



Anti-Pinochet demonstrators celebrating in Parliament Fields as the law lords' decision is announced yesterday

David Rose

ground. The day belonged to the likes of Roberto Vasquez, a Chilean exile jailed by the military regime at the age of 17, when he was a student leader.

When the decision of the law lords came through, he was hugged and clasped by friends and fellow refugees. "I have spent 25 years waiting for this," he said.

Vladimir de la Vega, a musician who was tortured in a Chilean prison in the Seventies, said: "At last it seems as though justice will be done."

Their sentiments were echoed by Amnesty International, which hailed the ruling as a milestone for international human rights law, while ex-

pressing regret about the post-1988 ruling. "The message is loud and clear," Amnesty said in a statement. "Head-of-state immunity does not grant the freedom to commit crimes of humanity and acts of torture."

Helen Bamber, director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, said: "This finding means that no official, however senior, can act with impunity."

The jubilant scenes in central London were replicated

outside the secluded mansion in Wentworth, Surrey, where General Pinochet has been living under police guard.

Protesters - who had pinned photographs of people who dis-

appeared under the military regime to police barriers - banged drums, blew whistles and burst into tears when the news was relayed over loudspeakers. National flags fluttered in the wind.

Political reaction was swift and predictable. Ann Clwyd, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said: "This is a very welcome day for the relatives of those who have suffered and who have campaigned for truth and justice."

William Hague, the Conservative leader, said it was "a sad day for democracy". In a statement, he said: "Chile is now a democratic country and as such has the right to try General Pinochet for these al-

leged crimes in a Chilean court."

The general's lawyer, Miguel Alex Schweitzer, was lukewarm on the ruling: "Compared to what we had before, this is good," he said.

But for the crowd outside Parliament, it was better than good. They had become a familiar sight, chanting their favourite slogan, "Pinochet, Dictador, España Por Favor".

Yesterday they cheered as Mr Dorfman emerged from inside the building and addressed them in excitable Spanish, telling them: "This is a gift from the dead of Chile to humanity. It is a great victory."

PAUL WAUGH AND KATHY MARKS

## Lords' limits dilute elation

### SPANISH REACTION

TEARS AND champagne mingled in the rain in Puerta del Sol, Madrid, yesterday where 200 of Augusto Pinochet's victims, their relatives and supporters, greeted the news that kept alive Spain's extradition bid.

"This is a historic decision that we've been waiting for 25 years," said one survivor of General Pinochet's dictatorship. But after the initial euphoria the mood became more somber as the crowd absorbed the limitations of the judgment.

Judge Baltazar Garzon, whose arrest warrant last October caused General Pinochet's detention and began the legal saga, hastened to the National Court to discuss with his colleagues the next step. He observed enigmatically that the day was "as grey and rainy as in London", but there was a smile on his lips.

Laura Soria, widow of Carmelo Soria, a Spaniard who was tortured and killed by General Pinochet's secret police soon after the 1973 coup, digested the fact that the former dictator could not now be tried for the crime against her husband. But she was not angry. "It is a crucial advance in the struggle against impunity that goes beyond individual cases," she said.

In the Chilean capital, Santiago, hundreds gathered outside the Pinochet Foundation. As the verdict was announced a prolonged cheer broke out. It seemed that General Pinochet had won a complete victory.

But slowly it became clear the general would not be returning at once. A sober-faced committee made up of retired generals gathered to assess the verdict. The ruling was a step forward, they said, but it was not the total victory they had been hoping for.

ELIZABETH NASH

## CASE MAY SET RECORD FOR COSTS

THE PINOCHET affair may become the most expensive proceedings in British legal history. So far the bill has exceeded £8m; now new extradition proceedings and appeals will raise that figure still further.

Add the cost of a police operation since the general

was arrested, £50,000 a week, and the total could top the £30m it cost for the Maxwell case.

The "meter" started ticking before General Pinochet was arrested, when lawyers for the Foreign Office and Crown Prosecution Service considered the Spanish

extradition request. By the time the first High Court hearing had taken place, government counsel fees alone were £123,625.

The general's nine-strong legal team cost an estimated £12,000 each a day and the Government's team will easily match that.

# Millions and Thatcherite support ease detention

## PINOCHET'S ROUTINE

ONCE AGAIN the plane was waiting on the tarmac and General Augusto Pinochet and his family had their bags packed to make what they believed would be a triumphant return home.

His influential supporters from Chile had flown to London and one of his British admirers, Lord Lamont of Lerwick, was in the Lords to phone in the expected good news.

But after yesterday's decision, the former dictator and alleged torturer and murderer will have to stay under house arrest at his rented house in Wentworth Estate, Surrey, at least a little longer. He is said to have been disappointed by not being freed immediately, but encouraged by the ruling that he cannot be extradited for crimes committed before 1988.

The general and his family have been staying at the home, rented by the Chilean government, for several months since his arrest while recovering from a back operation at the London Clinic in Harley Street. Since then he has been threatening to die in Britain as a "martyr to the Fatherland" and has been chairing meetings to plan his defence campaign. In the light of the Lords ruling, this will take on fresh impetus.

Both the pro and anti-Pinochet camps have been engaged in a propaganda battle but when it came to financial muscle, the Pinochet camp was well ahead.



Pinochet: Threatening to die a martyr Martin Thomas

The former dictator has around him a support party of Thatcherites to advise and help fund his defence. They include Lord Bell, Lord Lamont, Paul Johnson, Patrick Robertson, the former PR man for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, and Robin Harris, an adviser to Baroness Thatcher.

Both the pro and anti-Pinochet camps have been engaged in a propaganda battle but when it came to financial muscle, the Pinochet camp was well ahead.

As well as wealthy sympathisers in Britain, the Pinochet Foundation in Santiago, backed by businessmen, poured money into the campaign. More than £2m was raised and hundreds of Pinochet supporters have been flown to Britain to show their "spontaneous loyalty" to the man accused of ordering 4,000 deaths.

At the Wentworth Estate, the general's life had set into a pattern of morning walks in the garden, accompanied by armed

police, and afternoons of meetings with supporters. They can drink a cabernet sauvignon bottled for him by an admiring wine-grower in Chile, although the general is teetotal.

General Pinochet has become an avid reader of stories about himself in British and Chilean newspapers and is proficient at surfing the Internet for more. He is also writing his autobiography and there are well-thumbed volumes on the life of Napoleon, his hero.

In Chile there was consternation from Pinochet followers about the activities of the general's eldest son, Augusto, who raised money among anti-Castro exiles in Miami. He also appeared on Chilean television screaming wildly and calling his father's critics "beasts". An alarmed General Pinochet asked the foundation to curb his son's activities.

The PR firm Bell Pottinger was reportedly given a £200,000 contract by the Pinochet Foundation and a series of stories was placed in sympathetic newspapers, with photo opportunities at the Wentworth Estate, where he repeated his protestations of innocence and threats to die in Britain.

KIM SENGUPTA

# Tide of law threatens dictators

## LOSING EXEMPTION

THE DECISION that General Pinochet does not have immunity should, say human rights activists, send a shiver of apprehension through past and present dictators from the Côte d'Ivoire to Jakarta.

Dining at his favourite restaurant in Cannes, the former Haiti president Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier may well feel aggrieved at this change of rules, as might General Idi Amin of Uganda, living in Jeddah on a Saudi stipend. Those still in power, such as Laurent Kabila in the Congo and Kim Jong Il in North Korea, will also know that they

may be held to account in the future for what they do now.

The lords' ruling that, in the Pinochet case, the 1988 Torture Act is not retrospective is a blow to the prospect of extraditing him to Spain. However, legal experts say the ruling establishes that former heads of state cannot claim blanket immunity.

The concept of state immunity was enshrined in England in the State Immunity Act of 1978, for diplomatic reasons. But the concept had been challenged after the First World War when there was an un-

successful attempt to bring charges against Kaiser Wilhelm II.

After the Second World War, the prosecution of Nazi war criminals was firmer. The Charter of the International Military Tribunal in 1945 said: "The official position of defendants, whether heads of state or... officials in government departments, shall not be considered as freeing them from responsibility or mitigating punishment."

Since then there have been international tribunals set up for war crimes committed in Rwanda and former Yugoslavia, again

reiterating that those accused of human rights offences should not be allowed to hide under the cloak of state immunity.

The tide of law appear to be running against the dictators. The Rome statute for the International Criminal Court, signed by 120 countries including the United Kingdom, Chile and Spain, though not yet ratified, states: "In particular, official capacity as a head of state or government, a member of a government or parliament... shall in no case exempt a person from criminal responsibility under this Statute."

KIM SENGUPTA

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# After the replay, lords arrange Pinochet's away match

"ESPANA POR FAVOR" chanted a crowd of demonstrators in Parliament Square yesterday, cheerfully putting their case that Augusto Pinochet should be allowed to take his complimentary trip to the Costa del Sol.

Inside the law lords were due to give their judgment for the second time, and many people were hoping for a repeat of the penalty shoot-out cliffhanger the previous fixture had delivered.

In the Lords, the visitors' galleries creaked under the weight of lucky ticket-holders, several of them clutching Human Rights Watch's useful team list, a fill-in-as-

you-go scorecard, adorned with pictures of their lordships and boxes in which to note which way each judgment went.

For the first two announcements it seemed as if it might actually be useful for keeping tally, with Lord Goff levelling the score after an initial vote for extradition from Lord Browne-Wilkinson. After that, though, it was all downhill for the general. The point of no return passed without an audible mark and the first sound that moved the chamber was the laughter that greeted Lord Browne-Wilkinson's remark that the judgments were "incapable of being understood with-

out some explanation". After glancing through the written opinions, with their talk of "immunity ratione materiae", "the refoulement of persons" and the principle of "out dedere aut punire", Lord Browne-Wilkinson's crisp paraphrase was gratefully taken up.

We could have done with him half an hour later, to offer a simultaneous translation of the Deputy Prime Minister's answers as he stood in for his boss at Prime Minister's questions. Impromptu sentence construction is not one of Mr Prescott's strong points and his frail syntactical powers appear to be further sapped when he finds himself

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

addressed as Prime Minister. The result is not boring, it has to be said, with some replies offering the vision of a strange parallel universe, sim-

ilar to our own but subtly different in its details. After a hostile Labour question about military action against Serbia, for example, Mr Prescott was at pains to underline allied determination. "Unato is united," he said resolutely, accidentally inventing what sounded to be a useful hybrid of international talking shop and mutual defence pact.

A little later, after Peter Lilley had asked for an assurance that the murderer of Stephen Restorick would not be released early unless IRA weapons had been decommissioned, Mr Prescott stumbled again. "The freeing and exchange of prisoners" would continue, he

said. Tories barked in synthetic confusion. Was there some POW camp deep in bandit-country that they had not been told about? Mr Prescott looked testy. "I withdraw that remark. I apologise. I made a slip," he said, in a voice like fingernails raking down a blackboard.

The truth is, though, that Mr Prescott offers more slips than a lingerie department - sometimes eliding whole words ("everybody in the House feels exactly about that," he said, after a denunciation of child abuse, sometimes mispronouncing one so that the sentence twists surreally in his mouth: "The average level of the Tax Asian has gone

down," he said, in a reply about council tax levels.

He was rescued only by the dogged solidarity of his Labour colleagues. The inevitable gibe about diving had come from Peter Lilley but Mr Prescott was prepared for it. "When I dived 80 feet," he said, "I didn't dive low enough to discover the low Tory poll rating!" This quip had surfaced so fast that it got the bends and hit the deck writhing. But the entire Parliamentary Labour Party turned out to give it mouth-to-mouth, roaring as if it was the very epitome of repartee. Mr Prescott was so cheered up he got through a whole sentence without a fluff.

# Rebuke for Heath over advisory fees

STANDARDS  
BY FRANK ABRAMS  
Westminster Correspondent

THE FORMER prime minister Sir Edward Heath received an official rebuke yesterday for failing to declare paid advisory posts on the register of members' interests.

Sir Edward had maintained that the omission was due to a misunderstanding. But the Standards and Privileges Committee said he had ignored clear advice from Sir Gordon Downey, the former Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

The former Tory premier had reacted angrily to reports in *The Independent on Sunday* and *The Independent* that he had held undeclared paid posts with six organisations. He said there was no need to register the interests because he did not believe they would influence his actions, speeches or parliamentary votes.

Sir Edward was an adviser to the China Ocean Shipping Company, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, Arthur Andersen and the Praetium Imperiale Tokyo



Sir Edward Heath: Regret

arts awards. He also sat on the governing board of the Centre for Global Energy Studies and was international patron to the Varkey International Academy in Dubai.

The committee decided to take no further action against him, noting that he had expressed regret. But it added: "The advice given by the then commissioner leaves the committee in no doubt that Sir Edward had been told that the rules required him to register his interests. Members should pay attention to the commissioner's advice."

Sir Edward said in a statement that he had withdrawn the advisory posts from the register as a result of a "misunderstanding" over the effect of a rule change.

"As has been made clear, I regret the misunderstanding," he said. "I have sought and am seeking neither to undermine the rules nor to win special treatment for myself."

Sir Edward had declared the advisory posts but withdrew them from his entry in the 1996 register - the first to be drawn up under the new rules in response to the report of Lord Nolan's Committee on Standards in Public Life.

In his reply to the complaint, Sir Edward - who had been a leading critic of the Nolan reforms - said none of his interests had affected his actions as an MP and he had never raised them in the House or contacted ministers about them.

Sir Edward has now reinstated the entry, adding a new post with Jardine Fleming, and omitting the Varkey Academy and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson because his arrangements with them have ended.



Schools minister Charles Clarke walking tall as he launches a guide in London yesterday encouraging pupils to walk to school. Neville Elder

# Government may buy terrorist arms

THE GOVERNMENT'S purchase of arms from paramilitary groups is being considered as an option to "oil" the decommissioning process, Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said yesterday. Her disclosure came as

ULSTER TALKS  
BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

Downing Street signalled that there would be "increased urgency" to reach a settlement to set up the Stormont power-sharing executive by next week.

David Trimble, the Northern Ireland First Minister, and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, are under increasing pressure to agree a compromise on Unionist demands for

decommissioning to start before Sinn Féin takes seats on the power-sharing executive.

In the Commons, Ms Mowlam said every option, including the purchase of the paramilitaries' arms, was open. Every one would be considered by the decommissioning body.

She said she planned to call a meeting of the Northern Ireland Assembly next week. "What I want to make sure is that parties understand that, if that operates and there is not

a cross-community executive formed, if it is an executive of only one party, then you cannot devolve powers, you cannot transfer powers because it would be dysfunctional."

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, answering questions for Tony Blair who was in Berlin, dismissed Tory calls for the halting of the early release of terrorist prisoners until paramilitaries had given up their weapons. The freeing of prisoners was part of the

Good Friday peace agreement, he said, and it would be observed "with all the difficulties and all the feelings of disgust that may be felt at the time".

He said: "I find it difficult to accept that your intention apparently is to secure agreement when you talk in the language that you do."

The next few days were critical, said Mr Prescott, adding: "We are nearer to getting agreement than we've ever been before."

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# Labour peer supports 'regional list' for Lords

LORD RICHARD, the former Labour leader of the Lords, is on a collision course with his successor, Baroness Jay, over proposals that the reformed House of Lords should be directly elected.

The peer, who was dropped from the Cabinet by Tony Blair in a reshuffle last year, came out in favour of a regional list system, which would allow elections to the Lords, but leave the choice of elected peers to the party leaders according to their share of the vote.

Ministers are privately opposed to the idea of direct elections to the Lords on the grounds that it would chal-

LORDS REFORM  
BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

lenge the authority of the Commons. In a book to be published today, *Unfinished Business*, written with his former ministerial special adviser, Damien Welfare, Lord Richard says: "The best system... would be that of the regional list recommended by the Plant Committee. It enables the second chamber to be representative of the widest possible range of opinion in an area."

The Government has avoided committing itself to either appointing or electing peers to

the Lords, pending the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Lords reform, which is due to report by the end of the year.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the commission, yesterday published a consultation document, announcing plans to hold public meetings across the country in May, June and July and inviting comments on the issues.

*Unfinished Business*, by Lord Richard and Damien Welfare, Vintage Books £6.99; Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords, 4 Central Buildings, Matthew Parker Street, London SW1R 9NL.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Affair evidence

THERE WAS "no evidence" that the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, had an affair with a sixth-form pupil while they were both at Gordano School, Bristol, Estelle Morris, Education minister, said.

### Fuel rise stays

THE GOVERNMENT will not withdraw Budget fuel rises because they were made on the basis of a "balanced judgement", said the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott.

### Phone risks

"NO NEW scientific evidence" exists that would warrant putting a health warning on mobile phones, the Trade and Industry minister, Michael Wills, said.

# Speaker tells MPs to return reports

MPs RECEIVING leaked copies of select committee reports should not make use of them and should return them "without delay", the Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, said yesterday.

Ms Boothroyd asked the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to make a ruling after a select committee report on the arms-to-Africa affair was leaked to Robin Cook earlier this year. The Foreign Secretary is now likely to be challenged over his failure to return the report the moment he received it, because the Foreign Office was able to prepare a line of defence before it was published. The report found there had been an "appalling" failure by the Foreign Office in its handling of the affair.

Mr Cook has also revealed that he received two other reports by the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, admitted that his parliamen-

## COMMITTEE LEAKS

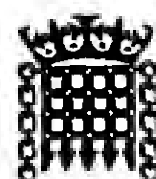
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

tary aide, Don Touhig, was passed a draft copy of a report from the Social Security Select Committee. MPs from all sides have been infuriated by the disclosure of leaks, arguing that it undermines their role in scrutinising the Government.

Ms Boothroyd said the views of the Standards and Privileges Committee were indicated to her in a letter. "The committee's view was that the fundamental responsibility of Members who received leaked copies of documents must be to act in a way not to impede the select committee," she said.

In the committee's judgement, she said, the MP should also not make use of the papers and should return them without delay. Miss Boothroyd added: "The Standards and Privileges Committee may have more to say on this subject, once they have completed their inquiry."

## THE HOUSE



### Liberia backs rebel forces

BRITAIN HAS "clear and specific" intelligence that Liberia has been supporting the rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone with military supplies, Foreign Office whip Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale told peers.

### Police must be covered by Bill

LABOUR BACKBENCHERS demanded that the police should be covered by the forthcoming draft Freedom of Information Bill as recommended by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny in the Stephen Lawrence report.

### Ironing out war pensions

THERE SHOULD be an annual debate on war pensions to iron out current anomalies in the system, Andrew Mackinlay, the Labour MP for Thurrock, urged.

### Today's agenda

Commons, 11.30am: Trade and Industry questions; debate on the armed forces; short debate on British hostages murdered in Chechnya. Lords, 3pm: Health Bill, third reading; European Parliamentary Elections (Gibbalt) Bill; debate on circumstances in which police vehicles may exceed speed limits and ignore traffic lights.





Shadow Council members Dame Judi Dench, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Alan Ayckbourn and Mark Fisher MP

## Stars vow to fight for future of arts

SOME OF the nation's most glittering names in the arts accused the Government yesterday of "dumbing down" Britain's culture.

To the embarrassment of Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, sponsors of the new "Shadow Arts Council" include Oscar winner Dame Judi Dench, and the minister's former deputy, Labour MP Mark Fisher. Mr Fisher was arts minister last summer.

The criticisms of the Government—the most damning by the arts establishment for years—were made at the official launch of the Shadow Arts Council, a body of arts practitioners chaired by the theatre director Sir Peter Hall, and pledged to expose the true state of the country's arts.

The aims of the new body, published at the launch, include a clause saying: "The arts should not be confused with popular entertainment."

Explaining this, Sir Peter

By DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

said the Labour Government in its espousal of "Cool Britannia" concentrated on film, pop music and video, rather than theatre or opera.

"They obviously decided the arts is a vote-losing issue," he said. "What they don't understand is that if you don't teach music properly in schools there will never be another Beatles."

The Millennium Dome did not even have a theatre, he said, adding: "I don't want my children to be fed on a diet of dumbed-down international television. We still live in a country where 'intellectual' is a pejorative term. An insult. And the word artist is suspect."

The administrator of the new body is Erika Frei, an established PR administrator who is also Sir Peter Hall's mother-in-law.

Sir Peter's vice-chairmen are John Tusa, head of the

Barbican Centre, and Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary of the Royal Academy. The members of the new body number over 100, and include the playwrights Sir Alan Ayckbourn, Sir Tom Stoppard and Harold Pinter; the conductors Sir Simon Rattle and Bernard Haitink; the composer Sir Harrison Birtwistle and a former head of the National Theatre, Sir Richard Eyre.

Sir Peter said the list was growing by the day. Dame Judi Dench had rung him from America after the Oscars, asking to be part of the new group. And the poet Tony Harrison had also just joined.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport said yesterday that it had already earmarked £125m more for the arts over the next three years.

The Arts Council also came under attack for carrying out government policy without making any criticism of it. The Shadow Arts Council's man-

ifesto said: "The Arts Council no longer fights for the arts. It is an instrument of government."

Sir Peter said the solution to the arts world's problems was the doubling of public subsidy. The Shadow Arts Council was going to be an irritant to government, he said.

He added that he hoped no one would use the phrase "whingeing hives". But within hours of the launch, Gerry Robinson, chairman of the Arts Council, said in an acerbic response: "The important thing is that it [the new body] should be a positive affair rather than just a bit of organised whingeing."

Alan Howarth, the Arts minister, said: "Sir Peter should resist any temptation to go on to auto-whinge. To think you can snap your fingers and double the arts subsidy is not serious."

The new council claimed that 55 per cent of regional theatres are on standstill grants, and children are "not getting access to arts education".



Sir Tom Stoppard has pledged his support for the new body AP/George Widman

## Brain machine restores 'speech'

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

TWO PATIENTS who are totally paralysed and unable to talk have managed to communicate by using their brain waves to control a computer.

It is the first time that people who cannot move a single muscle have been able to express their thoughts and feelings to their friends and family.

An international team of scientists from Germany, Italy and the United States enabled the patients to train their own brain-wave patterns to control a computer spelling device.

Neils Birbaumer, a psychologist from the University of Tübingen, and his colleagues describe in the journal *Nature* how they enabled two "locked-in" patients suffering from total paralysis to communicate again after years of silence.

"The system can be used by people who have no muscular control, even those who cannot control the movement of their eyes," Dr Birbaumer said.

The two patients suffer from advanced motor neuron disease and have to breathe using artificial respirators because of the complete degeneration of the nerves controlling the muscles of their bodies.

Each patient was trained to control the electrical activity of their brains, as recorded by an electroencephalogram, and to use their brain-wave patterns to control a computer program for spelling out words.

Dr Birbaumer said that it usually takes healthy patients between five and ten training sessions to control the computer's spelling accurately, using their thoughts alone.

However, it took the paralysed patients much longer, between 70 and 100 trials each lasting about five to ten minutes. "We don't know how it works. These centres in the brain for self-control are far away from the languages areas," Dr Birbaumer said.

## Royal Ballet promoter can charge what he likes

THE EXECUTIVE director of the Royal Opera House, Michael Kaiser, admitted yesterday that a commercial promoter staging a Royal Ballet season at the ROH would be able to charge whatever prices he liked.

The Independent reported

By DAVID LISTER

yesterday that the commercial promoter, Victor Hochhauser, had been engaged by the ROH to mount a summer season of the Royal Ballet next year. It is unprecedented for a commercial promoter to present the

Royal Ballet in its own home, funded largely by national lottery money. Profits will go to the promoter rather than back into the coffers of the publicly funded institution.

Asked yesterday if the season would be subject to the ROH's new policy of reducing

prices, Mr Kaiser said that the promoter would have the final say on prices and would not have to abide by the ROH or government policy on this.

It was not yet known what the ticket price range would be. "The seat prices are set by the promoter," Mr Kaiser told *The*

*Independent*. "They could be higher. We will have an influence on prices, but the final say will be the promoter's."

Geoffrey O'Connell, political consultant with the Lottery Promotion Company, which monitors lottery spending, had called the decision "outra-

geous", saying: "The lottery was not set up to fund venture capitalism. It was meant to go to good causes."

The new artistic director of the Royal Opera House, Antonio Pappano, said yesterday he would be working alongside Michael Kaiser when he

arrives in 2002. Although his appointment was announced as music director, Mr Pappano confirmed that he will be in charge of artistic policy, even though from 2002 to 2004 other commitments mean that he will be at the ROH only seven months of the year.

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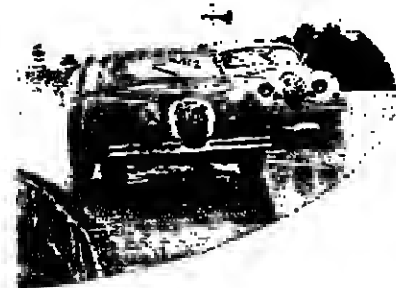
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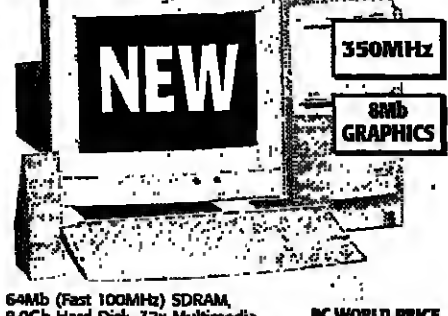
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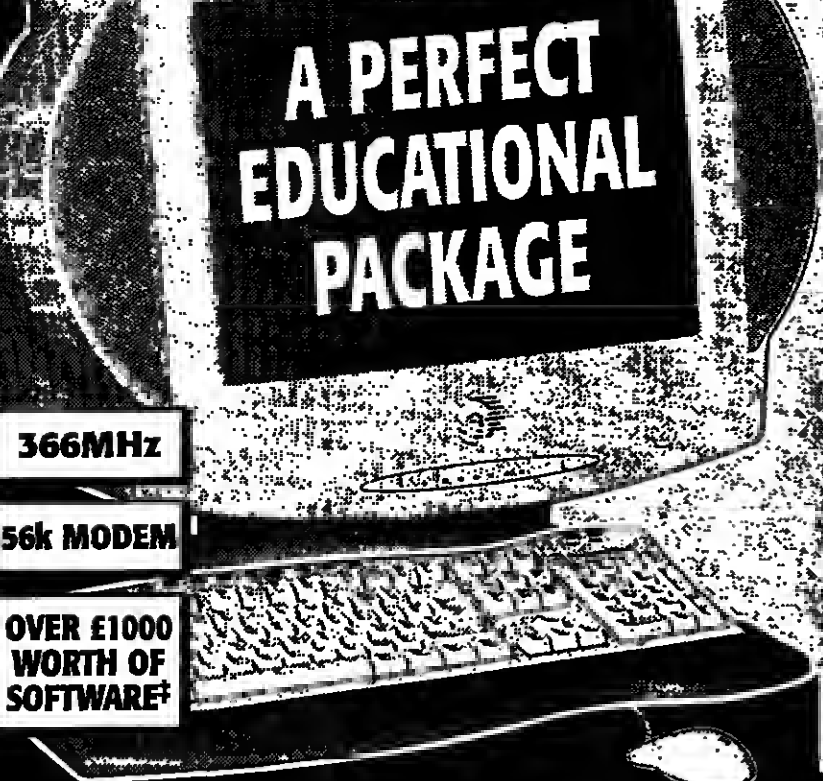
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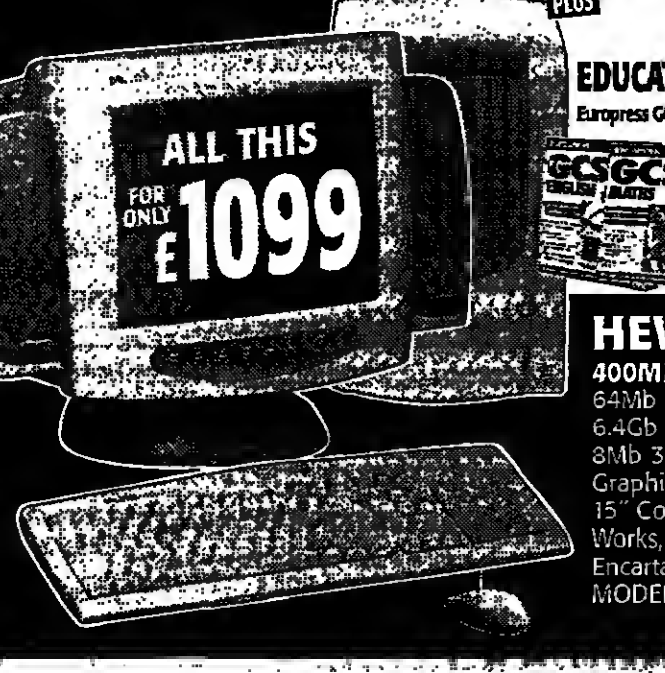
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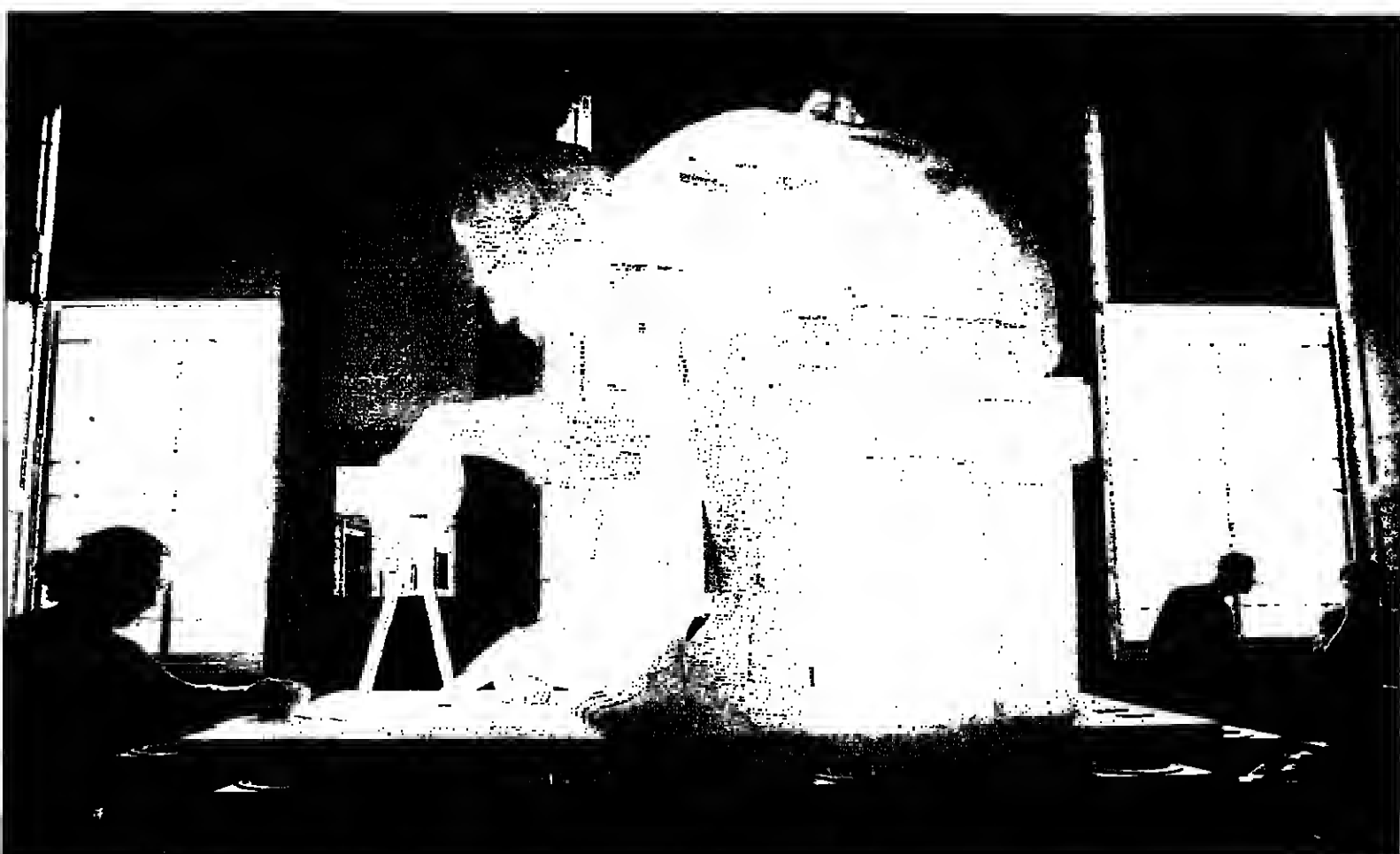
# PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE









Eduardo Paolozzi's 'Newton' being prepared for visitors at Edinburgh's new Dean Gallery of 20th-century art, which opens to the public on Saturday. The work is a plaster bust of the bronze figure outside the neighbouring Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Colin McPherson

## Theft of new cars takes only seconds

MOST CARS can be broken into within a minute, making a mockery of manufacturers' pledges to improve vehicle security, a new survey has found.

Tests carried out on 50 top-selling models found that 13 cars took less than 10 seconds to gain entry to, including luxury vehicles such as a Jaguar.

The worst-performing car in the tests was a Daewoo, which took experts just 1 second to break into, while the most secure were several Volkswagen and Volvo models.

Car manufacturers have promised ministers to help reduce vehicle crime by spending money on installing and improving security devices. In

BY JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

1997, 407,000 cars were stolen, and 710,000 people had property taken from their vehicles. The Government has pledged to reduce vehicle crime by 30 per cent in the next five years.

To test whether the motor industry had improved the security on its vehicles, the magazine *Auto Express* employed a locksmith and a car security adviser to attempt to break into 50 cars using tools available in hardware stores.

The Daewoo Matiz was the cheapest car tested, and the quickest to break into. "The sad fact is that it was quicker to break in than to open it with the key. Virtually anyone could break into this in an instant, using any one of a variety of tools," said the experts.

More expensive vehicles, such as the £19,600 Honda Accord, fared little better, holding out for just 1.72 seconds. The popular Ford Fiesta took 3.5 seconds to break into.

Surprisingly two Jaguar models, the XK8 and the XJ6, which cost £42,000 and £50,700, lasted only about 10 seconds.

"We find it disappointing that a £50,000 Jag could be entered more quickly than a [Ford] Cougar costing less than half that price," said the magazine. The overall winner was the

Volkswagen VAG lock system. Range Rover and Peugeot were also praised.

The results were an improvement on a similar set of tests last year, when half of the 50 cars were broken into within 10 seconds. "This year, the figures were reduced to 13 out of 50," said the magazine. "But we still got into 22 cars within 30 seconds, and five cars in under 2 seconds."

The magazine adds: "Manufacturers will protest. They will say that they are doing their best. But... the results from many make dismal reading. We are also concerned that in some areas, the lock-beating fraternity seems to be moving faster than the manufacturers."

The motor industry defended its record yesterday and argued that great improvements had been made to vehicle security, and that the tests carried out by the magazine were unfair.

Al Clarke, of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "It is one thing for skilled testers to break into cars, but consumers should look at real-life incidents."

"Most cars broken into are those left unlocked on forecourts or those with valuables on view. Thieves tend to avoid new cars and go for older ones. Even on new cars, you cannot turn them into fortresses."

### HOW SECURE IS YOUR CAR?

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Fiat Seicento 1.1 sporting	1.54	BMW 318iSE	
Honda Accord 1.8i ES	1.72	BMW 520i	
Proton Persona 2.0 TDI	1.87	Citroen Xsara Coupe 1.8 VTR	
Citroen Saxo 1.6 VTS	1.97	Land Rover Discovery 2.5TDS 5	
Ford Fiesta 1.4 16v Ghia	3.50	Peugeot 806 1.9 TD GLX	
Hyundai Atoz Plus	3.72	Porsche Boxster	
Ford Focus 2.0i Ghia	3.85	Range Rover 4.0 V8 SE	
Skoda Felicia 1.3 GLI	6.15	Rover 75 2.0	
Peugeot 206 1.6 GLX	8.16	Saab 9-5 2.3t SE	
Chrysler G Voyager 2.5TDLE	8.28	Skoda Octavia 1.6 GLX Estate	
Nissan Micra 1.3 GX	8.57	Volvo C70 2.5 T3GT	
Jaguar XJ6 4.0	9.87	Volvo S80 2.9SE	
Jaguar XK8 4.0	10.27	VW Golf 1.9 TDI SE	
Toyota Picnic 2.0 GLS	12.03	VW Passat 2.8 V6 Syncro	
Mazda MX-5 1.6i	16.28	VW Sharan 1.8T 20v	

## Children of 10 'call for help on pregnancy'

CHILDREN AS young as 10 are inundating a helpline with concerns about pregnancy and under-age sex, according to a report published yesterday.

The charity ChildLine, which answered more than 100,000 calls last year, said that more of the calls from girls aged 14 and 15 concerned pregnancy than any other issue.

Altogether 7,317 girls called the helpline about pregnancy in 1997-98, making it the fifth most common reason for a youngster to call. Almost 80 per cent of those who gave their ages to the confidential service were under 16, with a small minority aged between 10 and 12.

Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe, and in the worldwide rankings comes second only to the United States.

ChildLine's report, entitled *It Couldn't Happen To Me*, was prepared in response to a request from the Government's Social Exclusion Unit, which is itself due to publish a report on tackling teenage pregnancy within the next few weeks.

The charity suggested that about 25 per cent of young women who were pregnant called it for advice and support.

BY EILEEN MURPHY

ChildLine's chief executive, Valerie Howarth, said: "Most of our callers are between 10 and 15. We are able to reach girls who do not seem to be contacting other agencies and this could prove vital in order to ensure that they have help and support as well as information about sex, contraception and pregnancy."

ChildLine said the report painted a grim picture not only of the level of teenage pregnancy in Britain but also the gap between theoretical knowledge of contraception and the reality. The report's author, Gill Keep, said: "Children as young as 12 are having sexual relationships, often unplanned or secretly, sometimes as part of a longer term relationship."

"In the main, young people's early sexual experiences do not seem to be planned or even explicitly chosen. Peer pressure, pressure from boyfriends, too much alcohol and sheer opportunity all played a part. Young people generally know about the facts of life and contraception but they did not seem to have put their knowledge into practice."

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# Gays target murder trial town

BY ANDREW GUMBEL  
in Los Angeles

THE SMALL college town of Laramie, Wyoming, switched into a tense mini-citadel yesterday, packed with police patrols, security barriers and gay rights activists, for the trial of a man accused of beating Matthew Shepard, a young gay student, and leaving him to die, tied to a freezing fence-post.

The prosecution says Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney lured 21-year-old Shepard from the Fireside Bar in Laramie last October, pistol-whipped him then bound him to the fence miles out of town. Their girlfriends were with them. Shepard was found in a coma 18 hours later and died in hospital.

Henderson's trial starts with the jury-picking today and McKinney is being tried in August. They have already told police they pretended to be gay so they could leave the bar with Shepard and rob him. They stole his credit card, \$20 and his patent leather shoes - supposedly to make sure he could not easily get back to town.

The defendants, high-school drop-outs who worked as roof repairers, are accused of first-degree murder, kidnapping and aggravated robbery. They face the death sentence if found guilty.

Their girlfriends, who were with them throughout Shepard's ordeal, are charged with being accessories and one has already pleaded guilty.

The trial, like the murder itself, is proving traumatic for the small prairie home of the University of Wyoming - raising questions about tolerance to-



Russell Henderson, 21, Aaron McKinney, 22, and Chastity Pasley, 20 at their arraignment over the gruesome killing of Matthew Shepard (above)

wards minorities in rural western communities with little or no reported crime, and about the resentment that exists between the town and the student body.

Gay activists plan to march in memory of Matthew Shepard this weekend in towns all over Wyoming including Laramie

and the state capital, Casper, where Shepard's parents live. On Tuesday, Shepard's mother was in Washington, lobbying Congress to pass specific hate crime legislation recognising the peculiar savagery of what happened to her son.

There is no guarantee these laws will stop hate crimes

from happening," Judy Shepard said. "But they can reduce them. They can help change the climate in this country, where some people feel it is OK to target specific groups of people and get away with it."

Jury selection is expected to take two weeks and lawyers say this will be difficult in a town

where the crime has had so much publicity.

Little more is known about the possible motives for the killing. But evidence has emerged since the murder, pointing to strange coincidences in the lives of the victim and the two accused. McKinney was admitted to the same hos-



## Jackson not to run for White House

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

THE BLACK civil rights campaigner the Rev Jesse Jackson has announced that he will not make a third run for the US presidency. His decision leaves Bill Bradley as the only declared challenger to Vice-President Al Gore for the Democratic Party's nomination, and makes it likely that there will be no black challenger.

Mr Jackson, who is 57, had explored the possibility of running again in recent months but said yesterday he had decided to devote himself instead to his campaign to improve opportunities for black and ethnic minority representation in the Wall Street financial establishment. He had told the black television network BET at the weekend that he did not feel "very motivated" to run. He made the decision public yesterday on the website of his son, Jesse Jackson Jr, who is an Illinois Congressman.

Mr Jackson's decision ends hopes harboured by the civil rights generation that it could provide America's first black President, and passes the baton of black representation in national politics to the next generation. This includes not only Jesse Jackson Jr, who is political heir to his father, but young black professionals of a very different stamp, such as the Republican Congressman from Oklahoma, J C Watts.

Associates of Mr Jackson insisted that he would continue to wield influence in the White House, whoever was elected to the presidency. "The Rev Jackson doesn't have to be a candidate to make an impact," one adviser said yesterday.

Mr Jackson has been a spiritual adviser to the Clinton family through the Monica Lewinsky trauma. He reportedly consoled Hillary Clinton and Chelsea on the eve of Mr Clinton's televised admission of the affair, and acted as a go-between, conveying to the media how the family was coping with the strain.

## Rudder fault caused Boeing to crash, says inquiry

THE CRASH of a USAir Boeing 737 airliner near Pittsburgh in 1994 was caused by a rudder malfunction, United States officials said yesterday after a four-year investigation.

Rudder problems may also have been responsible for an earlier accident involving a United Airlines 737 in 1991.

The National Safety Transportation Board unanimously

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

endorsed findings that the pilots aboard USAir Flight 427, en route from Chicago to Pittsburgh on 8 September 1994, lost control of the jet when the rudder started doing the opposite to their foot-pedal commands.

The board identified a hydraulic valve in the rudder sys-

tem that may have caused the malfunction. According to a computer reconstruction of the flight, the rudder abruptly swung to the left, flipping the plane hard to one side. When the pilot attempted to move it back to the right by applying pressure on his pedal, he was, in fact, pushing it farther left.

The aircraft spiralled 6,000 feet into the ground, killing all

132 people on board. The disaster was immediately linked to the 1991 United accident, in which a Boeing 737 crashed outside Colorado Springs, killing all 25 on board. That accident was never solved, although strong winds were considered a possible factor.

In another incident in 1996 near Richmond, Virginia, the pilots of an Eastwind Airlines 737

struggled to maintain control because of rudder problems, but managed to land safely.

The board's findings could have expensive repercussions for the makers, Boeing, and could trigger up to 10 new safety recommendations from the federal government. Among these could be an order that Boeing redesigns the 737 to ensure that the rudder system can

be "reliably redundant" - enabling other mechanical systems to override the rudder.

Yesterday's ruling rejected suggestions by Boeing that the USAir accident may have been caused by pilot error.

"A rudder reversal scenario will match all three events," said Dennis Crider, chairman of the board's aircraft performance group.

The investigation has been closely watched because of the worldwide popularity of the twin-engine Boeing 737. There are 3,100 of them in service, and up to 800 may be in the air at any one time. In attempting to emphasise the jet's wider safety record, Boeing has pointed out that a 737 is taking off somewhere in the world every few seconds.

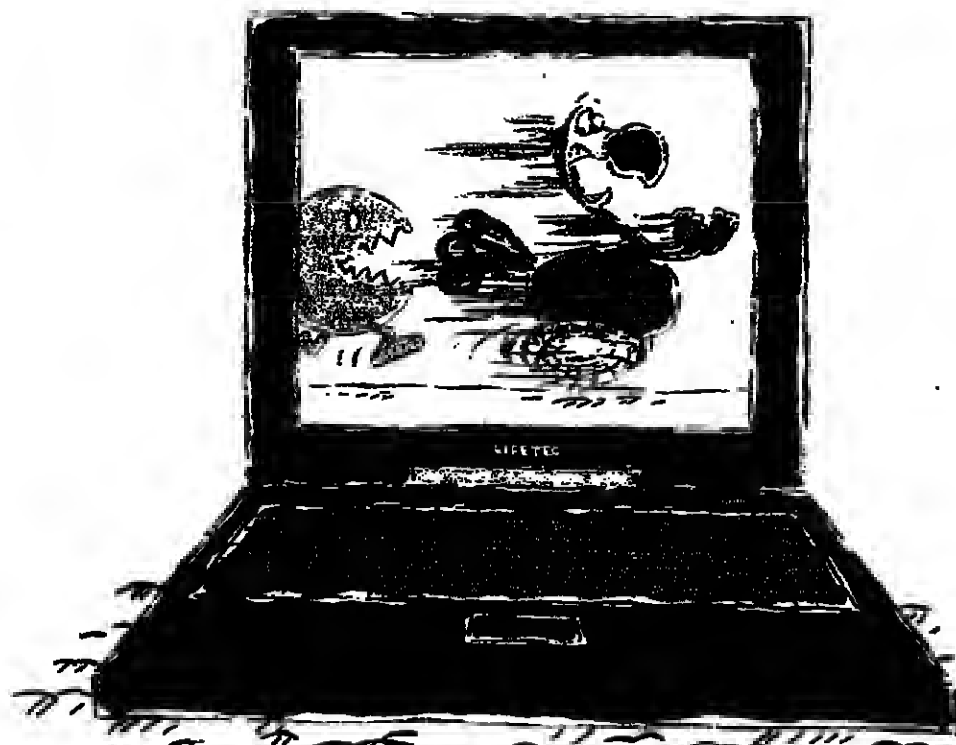
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Romano Prodi is an exponent of the 'third way', an economic liberal and an ally of Tony Blair

# Prodi is chosen to clean up Brussels

EUROPE'S LEADERS moved swiftly to appoint the former Italian president, Romano Prodi, as European Commission president yesterday, but left new uncertainty about the timing of his arrival and of the departure of disgraced commissioners, including Edith Cresson.

Acting with unexpected speed, the 15 European heads of government needed only a brief discussion to confirm predictions and offer Jacques Santer's job as Commission president to Mr Prodi.

The German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, who chaired the meeting, hailed the appointment as a success, arguing that "as a result of this very rapid and unanimous decision it has become clear that the council of the EU can act".

Mr Prodi, who was prime minister of Italy until last autumn when his Olive Tree coalition government fell, will hold talks with the leaders of the 15 governments next month to discuss his programme to clean up Brussels.

Yesterday's deal - a public relations coup for the German presidency of the EU - emerged after three other contenders - Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, Antonio Guterres, the Portuguese Prime Minister, and Javier Solana, Nato Secretary-General - fell by the wayside.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE AND KATHERINE BUTLER in Berlin

But yesterday's decision failed to fill the vacuum in Brussels completely. It had few answers about the life-span of the current caretaker administration, made up of Mr Santer and the other 19 commissioners who resigned en masse 10 days ago. British and French government sources said Mr Prodi would not be available to start until June.

The leaders failed to address the problems involved in keeping the caretaker commission, which may legally be obliged to continue in office until it is formally replaced. Because of the speed with which yesterday's decision was made, the heads of government had insufficient time to get a legal opinion on how to proceed. Tony Blair's spokesman said: "We are still a bit unclear about how it is going to work but it should not be beyond the wit of the great and good to figure it out. The important thing is we have got a real political heavyweight with an agreed mandate for reform."

One scenario is that Mr Santer, who has announced plans to stand as an MEP, would step down from his Brussels post immediately, leaving the Com-



Schröder: Hailed success

mission temporarily without a president. He may go on an extended Easter break and not return to his office.

Challenged about the timing of Mr Prodi's installation, Mr Schröder said: "That depends on the decision of the parliament." If Mr Prodi does, as expected, take over before July, he faces two screening processes: the first by the current parliament, the second by the new one after European elections in June. There remains a separate and more complex question mark over the Commission, with several member states wanting the rapid departure of Ms Cresson, and perhaps other

discredited colleagues. That would leave the remaining commissioners in post at least until the summer.

This scenario is fraught with difficulties, with no sign that Ms Cresson, the education and training commissioner, would allow herself to be singled out for harsh treatment. Some countries, including Britain, have said they intend to renominate their commissioners until the end of the year when their term of office was due to expire.

The German Chancellor praised a plan put forward by the Benelux countries, which would involve Mr Prodi in consultations with the national governments about which members of the current commission should be invited to serve until the end of the year, and on how to proceed with an overhaul of the Commission.

The appointment of Mr Prodi was widely welcomed by MEPs yesterday. Mr Prodi himself, in Frankfurt on a scheduled visit, said the job would be a "great challenge", adding that "there is also enormous satisfaction for my country that there was unanimity". The former Italian prime minister said the next few weeks would be dedicated to preparing "a five-year programme for the new Europe".

Hamish McRae, Review page 4

## Italian statesman willing to do deals

WITHIN MINUTES of Romano Prodi's nomination as the president of the European Commission, Downing Street had issued a statement praising his track record as a former industrialist, an economic liberal and even an arch-privatiser.

It may be a rather selective summary of Mr Prodi's career, but it illustrates the political complexity of the man who was yesterday catapulted into one of Europe's top jobs. On the one hand, the 59-year-old former Italian premier does not belong to the socialist political family that now claims the allegiance of 11 of the 15 EU premiers. But on the other, he has been a leading exponent of efforts to redefine democratic socialism through the "third way" - and last year shared a platform at a seminar on the subject in Washington with Bill Clinton and Tony Blair.

Mr Prodi and Mr Blair are good enough allies to have shared a shirt-sleeved meal last summer during the annual Blair holiday in Tuscany.

BY FRANCES KENNEDY in Rome AND STEPHEN CASTLE

There is more than politics in common: Mr Blair loves Italy, and Mr Prodi can count a spell at the London School of Economics on his impressive academic curriculum vitae.

Known as "Il Professore", and seemingly uninterested in the trappings of high office, Mr Prodi has many of the qualities that could symbolise a new start in Brussels. He is personable and down-to-earth and, during his domestic political battle with the multi-millionaire Silvio Berlusconi, was often pictured cycling through the Italian countryside. While his rival used a private helicopter, Mr Prodi took the train.

Sandwiched between Mr Berlusconi's Forza Italia and a left that included the former Communist Party, Mr Prodi was ideally placed to front the centre-left Olive Tree Coalition, which came to power in 1996 and fell last autumn. In

Italian terms, that counts as a long stretch in power, which some feel bodes well for a man who has many a compromise to broker in his new hot seat.

As head of the coalition in 1996, he toured 100 towns in a bus to find out what Italians really wanted from their leaders, a move that struck Italians as naive but worthy.

His chubby face and Bolognese roots quickly earned him the nickname "Mortadella" - after the famous sausage.

Twice his government was brought to the brink of collapse but survived. On the third occasion, Mr Prodi resigned rather than cut a compromising political deal. He has made no secret of his regret at leaving the prime minister's office and last month formed a new political force, Democrazia per l'Ulivo, to contest the European elections. He teamed up with the anti-graft prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro and the mayors of 100 cities in a political initiative that has not pleased the Prime Minister, Massimo D'Alema.

## Blair to clinch rebate

TONY BLAIR is today expected to secure an agreement safeguarding Britain's £2bn annual EU budget rebate, a political concession designed to help him to smooth the path to British membership of the single currency.

European leaders meeting in Berlin are expected to agree on a seven-year reorganisation of the Union's finances, aimed at preparing for enlargement to eastern Europe. The latest attack on the British rebate, won by Margaret Thatcher in 1984, has been going on since negotiations on future financing began more than a year ago.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE AND KATHERINE BUTLER

But draft conclusions for a final agreement, tabled by the German EU presidency yesterday, conceded the principle that the British rebate will remain.

Mr Blair and his EU counterparts were still haggling last night over the terms of "adjustments" to the rebate, which could reduce its value by up to £450m annually.

Britain has virtually agreed to surrender gains from two forthcoming EU policy reforms: the shift in the way contributions to the budget are calculated from VAT to GNP and moves to allow countries to retain more of the customs duties they normally pass on to Brussels. These add up to nearly £150m a year.

Yesterday, the Government's spokesman conceded that Mr Blair could sign up to a deal as long as it did not leave Britain worse off. He said: "If the system is changed in a way that would give us not a penny more or less that's fine. We have no problem with that."

Germany, however, was still demanding that Britain share the burden of the rebate. That could add £300m to Britain's bill.

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# Boesak gets six years in jail for charity fraud

A LAST-MINUTE plea for clemency by Archbishop Desmond Tutu was not enough to save Allan Boesak, one of the heroes of the anti-apartheid struggle, from being sentenced yesterday to a six-year jail term for fraud and theft.

Boesak, 53, the former head of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, fought back tears in Cape Town High Court as Judge John Foxcroft delivered sentence. Last week, the court found the former church minister guilty of taking 1.3 million rands given by the singer-songwriter Paul Simon and the Swedish aid organisation Sida to Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice.

"My innocence is not touched in one way or another by the conviction in this court," said Boesak as he left court with his wife, Elaine, and son, Allan Jr. Boesak will remain free for 21 days while his lawyer, Mike Maritz, fights for an appeal. Judge Foxcroft turned down the initial application yesterday.

"The last word is not spoken. The same god that has carried me this far will carry me further," he said to cheers from supporters outside the court.

The trial, which dragged on

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH  
in Johannesburg

for most of last year due to arguments over legal aid, heard that Boesak had acquired a taste for luxury during the late Eighties, leading him to abuse his high moral standing.

Boesak, whose Foundation for Peace and Justice (FPJ) was set up, in part, to help orphans and other child victims of the struggle, gained fame as a charismatic speaker.

In the days of "struggle bookkeeping" - when funds and their donors had to be concealed from the authorities - Boesak was able to attract large foreign contributions, including from Sida and Simon.

The singer gave the FPJ 682,000 rands (then £130,000) from his 1987 *Graceland* album, famous because it was recorded in South Africa in breach, some claimed, of a United Nations cultural boycott of the apartheid regime.

The court heard that Boesak gave only 423,000 rands to the FPJ, keeping the balance for himself - which helped him to buy two houses in white Cape Town suburbs.

Despite the court evidence,

many South Africans refuse to accept Boesak's guilt or wished the court to show clemency. Archbishop Tutu, on a university fellowship in the United States, made an appeal by fax to Judge Foxcroft on Tuesday.

In the letter, written after last week's conviction, Archbishop Tutu said: "His contribution in the country and its people outweighs overwhelmingly the consequences of those actions in which he has been convicted."

Judge Foxcroft conceded yesterday that Boesak "played an important part in ridding South Africa of the hated system of apartheid", but said a lenient sentence would mean the administration of justice could fall into disrepute.

Wouter Basson, the South African scientist who led the apartheid era's chemical and biological warfare programme, will stand trial on 4 October on a range of charges, including murder, fraud and theft.

The trial of Mr Basson, whose appearances at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission revealed he also worked on British and American programmes, is expected to last two years.



Parisians pass by the Big Horn series, which has been described by some as half-way between Rodin and the wax works

Reuters

## Big Horn battles against the elements

A SIOUX warrior, on horseback, tramples a fallen cavalryman; a coal barge passes underneath. As General George Armstrong Custer breathes his last, the cathedral of Notre Dame gleams in the distance.

For the next eight weeks, one of the most startling and moving art exhibitions in Paris can be found, in the open-air and free, on a bridge over the Seine. The centrepiece is a frieze of 23 larger than life human figures and eight horses, retelling the story of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

The figures form the largest

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

work attempted by the Senegalese sculptor Ousmane Sow, best known for his representations, at once stylised and life-like, of African tribal figures and groups. The exhibition, on the Pont des Arts, a pedestrian trestle bridge linking the Louvre and the Académie Française, also contains a score of his earlier sculptures of Nubians, the Masai and his own ethnic group, the Peuls.

Sow, 64, was a kinesiologist - a French variant of phys-

iotherapist - for 30 years before putting to use his intimate knowledge of the human body in a different way, as a professional sculptor. He has never trained as an artist; he refuses to use live models; he fashions his figures from his own secret mixture of materials, including sacking, earth and industrial glues.

Judgements on the results are variable. One critic described the Big Horn series as "half-way between Rodin and the wax works... a three-dimensional cartoon strip." *Le Monde* saluted Sow as one of

the world's greatest living sculptors. All the figures in the Big Horn frieze, whether native Americans or troopers, have a vaguely African look. Sow says this is deliberate: he is not taking one racial side or another, just capturing the human instinct to resist oppression.

He says his sculptures express the "energy" and "movement" of the human form. They are not precise representations. "I find the scrubbed, shining finish of certain Greek sculptures rarely moves me... If you wanted precision, you could copy the wooden horses from

roundabouts. They are perfect but have no life, no depth."

The figures are built up in layers, papier mache-style, using sacking around metal frames. But the sculptor declines to reveal the formula for the paste he uses. He insists that the finished sculptures can withstand the elements just as successfully as statues made from stone or bronze. He may have to revise this judgement. After a few days exposed to the spring weather of Paris, the Seventh Cavalrymen, Sioux and Cheyenne warriors are receiving a little, light first aid.

## 32 die in Kenyan train crash

AT LEAST 32 people, including five foreign tourists, died when a train travelling from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to the coastal city of Mombasa derailed yesterday.

Police said about 100 people were injured in the accident, which happened 200 miles south-east of Nairobi. Unconfirmed reports said two French

BY MARCUS TANNER

nationals were among the dead. Nairobi hospital said nine French, eight British and four Kenyans, some in a serious condition, had been admitted.

Survivors said the train appeared to be travelling far too fast. They had to climb out of carriage windows, as the doors

were locked, and then walk a mile to the main Nairobi-Mombasa road where Chinese workers carrying out road repairs were the first to come to the help of victims.

The 310-mile train trip between Nairobi and Mombasa through Tsavo National Park is popular with tourists and regular travellers.



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JP 11/10/98



# Strikers bring Israel to standstill

ISRAEL WAS largely crippled yesterday by a strike of public-sector workers demanding a wage rise matching the rate of inflation.

The walkout by 400,000 workers closed seaports and post offices, religious councils and kindergartens.

Several radio and television channels went off the air and flights were delayed or cancelled at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

The state telephone company, ambulances and electrical workers are operating what is known as a "Sabbath schedule". Experience last week shows this means the country's telecommunications face rapid paralysis because no repairs are being done.

The strike call by the Histadrut labour federation is part of a campaign to win an 8.1 per cent wage increase, in line with the inflation rate. The treasury is offering just 3.81 per cent.

The timing of the strike has much to do with Israel's upcoming election on 17 May. The strikers sense this is a good moment to emphasise their grievances and try to strike a deal with the government.

They say they are losing out in the dispersal of pre-election gifts to many sectors, from Jewish immigrants from Russia to the ultra orthodox.

Amir Peretz, the Histadrut chairman, said: "After the government gave away millions to various special interest groups, they're trying to regain their credibility on the backs of the workers."

Mr Peretz made a sharp attack on Benjamin Netanyahu,

By PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

the Israeli leader, saying: "The Prime Minister has put himself on the side of the country's rich and is ignoring the plight of the workers whose wages have been eroded."

The government is saying Mr Peretz is making unreasonable demands for political motives. He has founded his own party to represent workers' interests and he intends to contest the election for the Israeli parliament.

There is no doubt wage disparities have increased in Israel in the Nineties. None of the main political parties represents the interests of wage earners, being mainly concerned with meeting the needs of the religious or ethnic groups that support them.

Unless negotiations succeed the strike will continue up to the Passover holiday next week, when the country comes to its usual halt.

What is unclear is how the strike will affect the general election, but a poll in yesterday's edition of the daily newspaper *Ma'Ariv* shows 61 per cent of Israelis believe the strike was initiated for political reasons, and only 25 per cent believe Mr Peretz is leading the strike to benefit the workers.

Sima Kadmon, an Israeli commentator, said Mr Peretz's "biggest problem is that even if he is conducting an innocent and just battle for the workers' sake there isn't a single person around who believes that he is battling for them and not for himself".



Protesters injured in clashes with police in Asuncion

Ceferino Recalde/AFP

## Chaos after Paraguay killing

IN AN atmosphere of growing tension and political chaos, Paraguay yesterday prepared to bury its Vice-President, Luis Maria Argana, who was assassinated on Tuesday.

The main trade union announced an indefinite general strike in an attempt to force the resignation of President Raul Cubas, Mr Argana's main political rival. About 10,000 rural workers were expected to join the general strike. The Vice-President's family blame the President for the murder.

With troops already stationed in the streets of the capital, Asuncion, there were reports that the President was planning to declare a state of emergency. Mr Argana, 66, died when three or four men in military dress stopped his car in Asuncion and sprayed it with bullets. There were clashes on Tuesday when 5,000 people marched on parliament to demand the President's resignation. (Reuters)

By JOSE MARIA AMARILLA  
in Asuncion

# A murder that left so many questions

NAELA HAMDAN AYED, a Palestinian health expert from Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem, was having a busy morning on 11 February. She took a taxi to an insurance office on Jaffa road in Jewish West Jerusalem at about nine o'clock and decided to walk back to the Palestinian part of the city for a hairdresser's appointment at 10am.

## FRONTLINE JERUSALEM

Her quickest route lay through Elisha Street, a narrow lane through the Jewish district of Musrara. It runs down hill to the Damascus Gate entrance into the old city of Jerusalem and is often used by Palestinians on their way to the City hall.

She never reached the end of the road. No witnesses have come forward but, judging from the blood stains, she was attacked by somebody with a knife outside the steel door of 11 Elisha Street. Stabbed in the body she staggered into the middle of the road and died.

Elisha Street also houses the *Independent* office where I have worked for the past four years. The first I knew of the murder was when I saw policemen and neighbours gathered around a body at the end of the street.

The first thought that came to mind was that the serial stabber who preys on Palestinians walking through West Jerusalem had struck again. In the past year he has killed two people with a knife and wounded half-a-dozen. Detectives briefly had the same idea. But the case then took a strange twist. About five hours after the murder, a 22-year-old Palestinian named Mohammed Shalaan went up to an Israeli checkpoint to the east of Jerusalem and told the Israeli policemen: "I'm the man who stabbed the woman this morning."

"I thought she was a Jewess, so I murdered her," he told the detectives. "I bought

the knife in East Jerusalem. I got to Musrara this morning. I wandered about the alleyways and when I saw the woman I stabbed her and ran away. When I heard she was an Arab I panicked and decided to turn myself in."

His parents said their son had always had psychological problems. He was unemployed and had once smashed the windscreen of his head-teacher's car. On another occasion he was arrested when he told an Israeli woman in a supermarket he had a bomb.

Taha Shalaan, the father of the alleged killer, says: "Mohammed didn't do it. He was having breakfast with me when the murder took place." An unemployed labourer living in a poor house in the Palestinian township of Abu Dis, Mr Shalaan is almost bent over with sorrow at his son's arrest. He has no explanation for Mohammed's confession. He says: "I don't have enough money for a lawyer, I can't even pay the rent."

In a city as riven by hatred between Israelis and Palestinians as Jerusalem, each side has a different view of what had happened. The Israeli police are satisfied by Mohammed Shalaan's confession and have handed the papers on the case to the prosecutor. Many Palestinians are suspicious of the speed with which the police dismissed the theory that Ms Ayed was murdered by a Jewish serial killer.

Palestinian misgivings are in part the fruit of a desire not to believe that somebody such as Naela Ayed, a specialist in health and nursing with a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in the United States, should have been stabbed to death by a fellow Palestinian.

Ms Ayed, 48, spoke English, German and Arabic and had degrees from three American universities. She had turned down job offers in the US and the Gulf to return to Jerusalem to try to improve the health of fellow Palestinians.

"I don't want to idealise her, but she felt what she did was important," says Maher Hamdan, Ms Ayed's brother. He said she had a deep feeling for Jerusalem. "When it is threatened, Jerusalem needs its people so much," says Mr Hamdan. "There is so much passion about the place. She had many offers of jobs in the Gulf but she had a big sense of belonging here."

He is suspicious of the circumstances surrounding his sister's murder. Why were there no witnesses in a normally busy street? Why have the Israeli police done so little to find the serial killer of Palestinians? According to Mohammed Shalaan's father, the alleged killer knew an Israeli intelligence officer, so could the confession be a put-up job?

None of these questions will be answered to the satisfaction of everybody in Jerusalem. The residents of Elisha Street are already forgetting the killing that took place at the end of the road.

PATRICK COCKBURN



Naela Ayed: Worked for the health of Palestinians

e element

screen, make a call from your seat on your personal telephone or treat your palate to a Mediterranean Cuisine inspired choice of three menus, amongst many other possibilities. And when you've landed and had time to reflect, you'll have no doubt as to why Iberia is today one of the leading business airlines of the world.

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INTERCONTINENTAL



Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

## BUSINESS

## Export collapse pushes UK into record £2.8bn deficit

## BRIEFING

## Stanley bids £80m for Capital

STANLEY LEISURE, the casino and betting shop owner, yesterday launched an £80m takeover bid for rival gaming group Capital Corp. Shares in Capital rose 12.5 per cent to 75p. Shares in Stanley rose 10.5p to 294p after it said it had approached Capital in an effort to win approval for the bid. Capital said it was considering the offer. Capital this month reported a 63 per cent fall in 1998 pre-tax profits, hit by a slump in the numbers of travelling Middle Eastern and Far East businessmen. It has already rejected offers from another rival, London Clubs International, and a number of unnamed bidders.

## Cohen lifts Dow Jones target



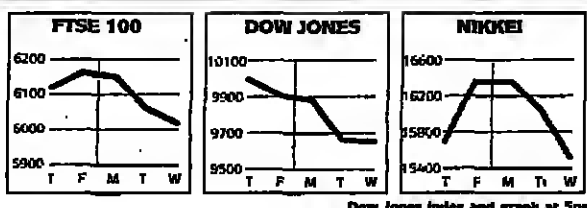
ABBY COHEN, Goldman Sachs' chief strategist and famed stock market bull (left), has lifted her 12-month target for the Dow Jones index. Ms Cohen, who correctly predicted that the Dow would breach 10,000 within a year of last autumn's stock market correction, said the Dow would hit 10,300 within the next twelve months.

However, she cut her 1999 profit forecasts for companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index by \$3.50 to \$49 a share. Yesterday, the Dow, which suffered heavy losses on Tuesday amid worries over the profit outlook, was trading water. By the early afternoon it was trading down 17.48 points at 9654.35.

## Canary Wharf shares: 320p-330p

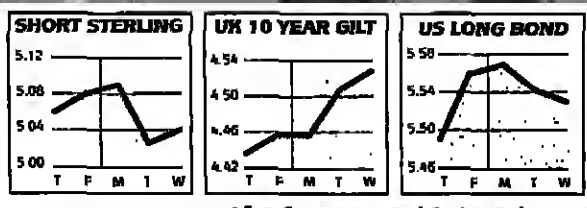
CANARY WHARF will announce a share price of 320p-330p today, valuing the London Docklands development at over £2bn. The company aims to sell a 25 per cent stake to raise roughly £500m. Sources close to the bookbuilders to the float, Morgan Stanley and Cazenove, say the institutional placing has been more than twice subscribed. The pricing range was set at the beginning of the month at 280p to 350p per share. Dealing in the shares will start on 6 April.

## STOCK MARKETS



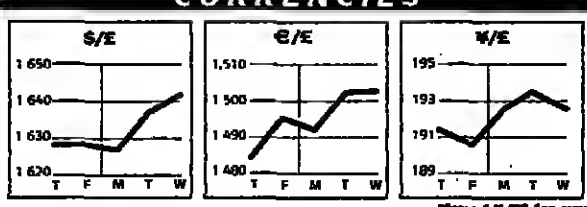
Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6016.70	-43.80	6365.40	4599.20	2.62
FTSE 250	5435.50	-40.10	5970.90	4247.60	3.08
FTSE 350	2876.10	-21.00	3024.90	2110.40	2.68
FTSE All Share	2787.66	-20.10	2923.83	2143.53	2.73
FTSE SmallCap	2382.00	-13.10	2783.80	1834.40	3.66
FTSE Fledgling	1289.70	-8.10	1517.10	1046.20	4.12
FTSE AIM	850.90	-3.40	1146.90	761.30	1.16
FTSE Eurotop 100	2809.13	-29.20	3079.27	2018.15	2.08
FTSE Eurotop 300	1217.38	-11.43	1312.07	889.65	1.99
Dow Jones	9657.39	-6.66	10085.31	7400.30	1.62
Nikkei	15515.47	-503.63	17111.59	12787.90	0.91
Hang Seng	10711.34	-29.67	11926.16	6544.79	3.33
Dax	4780.13	-134.90	5217.83	3833.71	1.80
S&P 500	1260.51	-1.38	1333.88	923.32	1.27
Nasdaq	2325.14	3.40	2933.44	1357.09	0.29
Toronto 300	6501.40	19.57	7837.70	5320.90	1.63
Brazil Ibovespa	10544.36	131.43	12338.14	4525.69	5.14
Belgium BeX20	3165.75	-48.85	3713.21	2696.26	2.08
Amsterdam Eex	525.73	-6.95	600.65	368.58	1.86
France CAC 40	4058.16	-21.31	4404.94	2881.21	1.78
Millan MIB30	35512.00	-407.00	39170.00	24175.00	1.09
Madrid Iboex 35	9720.70	-77.00	10989.90	6969.90	1.80
Irish Overall	5309.98	-65.14	5581.70	3732.57	1.57
S Korea Comp	611.48	-2.86	651.95	277.37	1.00
Australia ASX	2965.70	-21.90	3005.20	2386.70	3.14

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	18 month	2 year	5 year	10 year	Yr Ago
UK	5.35	-2.11	5.25	-2.31	4.53	-1.38	4.49	-1.34
US	5.00	-0.62	5.28	-0.93	5.16	0.41	5.53	0.95
Japan	0.19	-0.51	0.25	-0.41	1.87	0.08	2.67	0.32
Germany	3.01	-0.51	3.01	-0.78	4.00	-0.86	4.97	-0.45

## CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	18 month	2 year	5 year	10 year	Yr Ago
Pound	1.6413	+0.28c	1.6733	-0.10c	0.5976	-0.10c	0.5976	-0.10c
Dollar	1.5025	+0.18c	1.4079	-0.10c	1.7626	0.8571	1.7626	0.8571
Yen	192.58	-0.83	218.02	-0.41	117.31	-0.70	130.29	-0.41
£ index	103.80	+0.60	107.80	-0.30	107.20	-0.30	109.50	-0.30

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	West Rpt
Brent Oil (\$)	13.59	0.16	14.13	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	284.05	-0.40	299.25	RPI	163.70	2.10	160.33	Mar
Silver (\$)	5.10	-0.04	6.46	Base Rates	5.50	7.25	Off at 5pm	

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4781	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.55
Austria (schillings)	20.02	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2088
Belgium (francs)	58.86	New Zealand (\$)	2.9196
Canada (\$)	2.4051	Norway (kroner)	12.36
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8414	Portugal (escudos)	290.72
Denmark (kroner)	10.89	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9558
Finland (markka)	6.6887	Singapore (\$)	2.6841
France (francs)	9.5560	South Africa (rand)	9.8328
Germany (marks)	2.8584	Spain (pesetas)	241.75
Greece (drachma)	473.04	Sweden (kronor)	13.15
Hong Kong (\$)	12.30	Switzerland (francs)	2.3303
Ireland (pounds)	1.1459	Thailand (bahts)	55.52
Indian (rupees)	62.41	Turkey (liras)	578582
Israel (shekels)	6.0859	USA (\$)	1.5994
Italy (lira)	2835		
Japan (yen)	188.92		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9660		
Malta (lira)	0.6231		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

THE UK trade deficit reached a record high in January, official figures revealed yesterday, with the strong pound and weaker world growth pushing exports to a four-year low.

The January deficit on traded goods widened to £0.6bn to £2.8bn, the Office for National Statistics said - the highest since records began more than three hundred years ago.

An across-the-board collapse in exports - down by 5.5 per cent to £12.5bn - lay behind the disappointing trade figures. Exports to non-EU countries were hit particularly hard, falling 8.5 per cent in the month.

Analysts said sterling, which strengthened another 0.34p against the euro yesterday to 66.46p, was partly to blame. Against the German mark the pound is now close to DM2.95, a level not seen since last summer.

Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "Given that the lion's share of sterling's appreciation over the last two years has been against the euro zone, the

BY LEA PATERSON

resilience of the UK's export performance to the EU has been puzzling. The trend in volumes now appears to have decisively weakened, however."

Lower world growth was also part of Britain's export problem, said analysts. Few were surprised to see that UK exports to Germany, whose economy con-

tracted in the final quarter of 1998, were sharply lower in January. "Weaker EU growth is certainly part of the story," said Sharda Persaud at Paribas.

Even UK trade in services, which traditionally turns in a healthy surplus, was not immune. The surplus on services fell by £100m to £800m, the lowest for more than two years. The overall trade deficit on goods

and services in January was £2.1bn, also a record high.

Despite better-than-expected preliminary figures for February, analysts predicted that the trade deficit was set to deteriorate further this year.

The ONS provisionally estimated the February goods deficit with countries outside the EU at £1.7bn, £400m less than January's record high.

City experts warned that the widening trade deficit would

continue to depress economic growth this year. In 1998 the UK trade deficit wiped almost two percentage points from the growth rate.

Mr Iley at ABN Amro said: "We may not see such an intense drag on growth from trade in 1999 as we did in 1998, but it could still slice as much as a full percentage point from growth."

The prospect of continuing misery for British exporters prompted lobby groups to call for further cuts in interest rates.

David Kernohan, senior economist at the Engineering Employers' Federation, said: "The absence of inflationary pressure in the economy presents the Bank of England with a clear opportunity to cut interest rates to help stem the deterioration in engineering and manufacturing."

The trade minister, Brian Wilson, said that in the light of the pressures on trade, it was imperative that the world's leading economies promoted financial stability and resisted protectionist measures.

## Kenwood hit by worsening markets

SHARES IN Kenwood Appliances slumped by 20 per cent yesterday as the kettles-to-hair curlers group warned it would make a loss due to deteriorating trading conditions in eastern Europe and South Africa, writes Andrew Verity.

The warning is the third in a year for the group, which is undergoing a big restructuring in an attempt to reverse a five-year slide in its share price.

Kenwood said the poor trading conditions, combined with

the strength of sterling, meant it would make a pre-tax loss in the six months to 2 April, while the full-year figure should be "around break-even". No dividend will be recommended.

Profits were also affected by slower UK consumer spending, notably at Kenwood's biggest customer, GUS/Argos, and a string of asset write-downs and restructuring. In two years Kenwood has cut staff by half, leaving around 700 workers.

Colin Gordon, chief executive, said the trading environment strengthened the need to move away from Kenwood's old status as a vertically integrated manufacturer. Manufacturing is gradually being transferred to China.

The warning was the latest in a series of shocks that have left Kenwood vulnerable to a bid. Yesterday the share price fell to 76p, one-fifth of its level five years ago, valuing the company at £43m.

Likely predators include Glen Dimplex, the private Irish company that makes Morphy Richards appliances, and Alba, the quoted electronic equipment maker. UK Active Value, the shareholder activist group, has a 17 per cent stake, and the company turned down an approach from Fifco last year.

The global trading conditions have also affected competitors in kitchen appliances. Operating profit at Morphy Richards this year was down 49 per cent.

## WH Smith joins free Net battleground

WH SMITH yesterday jumped on the Internet bandwagon when it unveiled plans to launch a free Internet service and set up a website in conjunction with British Telecom and the Microsoft Network.

The service will put WH Smith in direct competition with Dixons, the electrical retailer, in the battle for Internet users. Freeserve, the free service owned by Dixons, has signed up more than 1.5 million users since it was launched last year.

Details of the service will not be announced until next month, but the news boosted WH Smith shares, which jumped 67.5p to 657.5p, adding £167m to the group's market capitalisation. Shares in Dixons fell by 11p to 1.33p.

Richard Handover, WH Smith chief executive, said the company was planning to provide a fully-fledged Web portal - a doorway Internet users will pass through before visiting other parts of the Net - offering education, entertainment and electronic commerce.

WH Smith is likely to sign up users for the service by providing the necessary software on CD-Roms in its stores and free on the website. The Internet service, which will only require users to pay for local calls, will be provided by BT.

The group had already

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

established itself as a player in the Net market by buying The Internet Bookshop and Helicon, a supplier of online information.

Since Freeserve was launched several other companies, including Tesco, Virgin and BT, have followed its lead. They were joined yesterday by Yahoo!, the US portal group, which linked with HMV and Waterstones to offer a service.

However, analysts said the proliferation of free services meant the battleground was likely to shift from signing new customers to building sustainable traffic flows to websites.

Meanwhile, Flextech, the television group behind channels such as Bravo and Challenge TV, planned its future on the Net with plans to invest £20m in its interactive division.

Adam Singer, Flextech's chairman and chief executive, said the Internet resembled the cable industry in its fledgling days of the late 1990s.

Flextech reported a pre-tax loss before exceptional items of £2.9m for the year to December, compared to a profit of £751,000 last year. The company said its core channels made an operating profit of £17m, but its share of the losses of UKTV, its joint venture with the BBC, almost doubled to £12.2m.



John Coleman, chief executive, pictured yesterday at House of Fraser's new Bluewater store Colin Beere

## House of Fraser warns of price war

JOHN COLEMAN, the chief executive of House of Fraser, yesterday warned that the recent troubles at Marks & Spencer could damage other department store chains.

Mr Coleman said that M&S's decision to cut prices on many products in response to a slump in sales could force other retailers to cut their prices.

"We take no pleasure in Marks & Spencer's problems. There is some negative impact

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

for the whole of the fashion sector. Because of M&S's discounting, people could get accustomed to discount buying," he said.

Mr Coleman's remarks came after House of Fraser, which owns the Army & Navy, Dickins & Jones and DH Evans chains, posted a 33.4 per cent slump in 1998 pre-tax profits to £19.3m despite a marginal rise

in like-for-like sales. The profit shortfall was caused by a sales slowdown in the second half of the year and by an increase in costs.

The chairman, Brian McGowan, said that the company decided to maintain its investment in upgrading its supply chain despite the tough market conditions.

Mr McGowan also announced that he was to step down in June after nearly six

years in the post. He is to be replaced by Robert Shragar, a former director of electrical retailer Dixons.

Mr Coleman said the group's 50-strong chain had seen an 0.5 per cent rise in sales in the first seven weeks of the new financial year. It would reap the benefits of the supply-chain overhaul this year, he said. More than £4m would be added to profits in 1999, with a further £15m to come in 2000.

## Barratt takes Blair to task over housing

BARRATT, the UK's second-largest housebuilder, yesterday attacked the Government's housing policy, accusing it of damaging the poor and hitting smaller companies.

Frank Eaton, the chairman of the building firm, used the publication of the company's interim results to launch a scathing attack on Tony Blair's administration. He said that the

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

scrapping of tax relief on mortgages, known as Miras, announced by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, in the Budget earlier this month, would be a major blow for the working classes.

"The abolition will hit the hardest those who are least able to afford it, particularly in

the less affluent parts of the country," Mr Eaton said.

The Barratt chairman added that the demise of Miras would damage the very people a Labour government was expected to protect. "The cost of the abolition is around £300 and that is a large sum for those on low incomes. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor ought to know better."

Mr Eaton also warned that in the long-term the measure would damage the British economy, as more and more potential homebuyers are forced into rented accommodation.

The chairman was also critical of delays in the planning system. He said that the Government's failure to address the "appalling" delays in permission to develop land was hitting

smaller housebuilders and forcing them to withdraw from the stockmarket. "It is getting progressively worse. Some of the smaller companies can't cope with it."

He warned that unless the Government solved this "deplorable situation", it had "no chance" of meeting its target of building 4.4 million new homes by 2016.

His comments came as Barratt reported a 21 per cent rise in the 1998 interim pre-tax profits to a record £41.2m on housing completions up 10 per cent to 4,206. Mr Eaton said that the company was on course to meet its 1999 target of an 8 per cent increase in houses sold, with forward sales in the first part of the year already up 10 per cent on 1998.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

## LONDON

SHARES HAD another difficult session. The worsening Balkans situation and the lack of any inspiration from New York left Footsie down 43.8 points at 6,016.7; at one time the index was off 92.2. Supporting shares were also in retreat. WH Smith, the retailer, was the latest to climb aboard the Internet bandwagon, jumping 67.5p to a 657.5p peak following a deal with Microsoft and BT. But Dixons, the electrical retailer which roared ahead on its Internet link, was hit by profit taking, falling 11p to 1.33p.

Derek Pain, page 23

## NEW YORK

THE DOW CLAWED back morning losses yesterday after Tuesday's 2.2 per cent slide. By early afternoon the index was down 17.48 points, 6.18 per cent, at 9,654.35. The Nasdaq Composite was little changed at 2,323.17. IBM, the computer giant, gained on positive broker comment, but other computer-related stocks, including Read-Rite and FSI International, fell on fears over profits. "There is concern we are starting to see a slowdown in tech spending related to 2000," an analyst said.

## TOKYO

JAPANESE shares suffered heavy losses, with domestic investors dumping stocks in an attempt to cement gains ahead of fiscal year end. Tuesday's slide in the Dow also undermined sentiment, and the benchmark Nikkei 225 index ended down 503.63 points, 3.14 per cent, at 15,515.47. June Nikkei futures fell 450 points to 15,530.

"Foreign buying interest was strong, but it could not keep up with domestic selling," said Shuichi Iwao, chief of stock trading at Nippon Global Securities. Major exporters were among the fallers.

## PARIS

TUESDAY'S SLIDE on Wall Street prompted heavy losses in early Paris trade, but stocks recovered later in the session as the Dow Jones index clawed back ground. The CAC-40 ended down just 21.31 points, or 0.5 per cent, at 4058.16, having been more than 1 per cent lower earlier in the day.

Major movers included the banks Paribas and Societe Generale, which pleased the market with a pledge to double the value of their holding should their planned merger go ahead.

## ATHENS

THE KOSOVO CRISIS sent Greek shares plunging by more than 8 per cent in early trade. Stocks pulled back later, and the general stock exchange index closed down 4.57 per cent, or 166.32 points, at 3,471.48. However, the crisis had seriously undermined confidence. "Kosovo severely affected psychology and investors seem to disregard financial criteria," said Iakovos Diamantopoulos, a broker at Hermes Securities. Traders predicted the market would recover unless military action spread throughout the region.



# Trade gap is a symptom of strength

DOOM AND her sister gloom were much in evidence yesterday in the reaction to the latest figures for UK trade. The January deficit on trade in goods was a record, and the traditional surplus on services is deteriorating fast. British exporters are faced now with a double whammy, the strong pound (doom) and recession in many export markets (gloom).

Kenwood's half-year loss acted as a sharp reminder of the toll the economic situation is starting to take on manufacturers. It sells in markets particularly hard hit by the global economic crisis, and sells at a price the current exchange rate has put out of reach of many customers.

The pound, after a winter dip, is heading back up. So far this year it has gained 8.5 per cent in trade-weighted terms. This is bad for companies like Kenwood, and it is not exactly brilliant for Britain either. Exports from the weak link in the British economy right now. Trade is likely to drag growth lower this year, just as it did last year. And certainly the imbalances in the economy between manufacturing and services, between exporters and consumers, are too extreme.

However, there is another way to



## OUTLOOK

look at the trade gap – as a symptom of strength rather than weakness. The UK, with moderate growth and a trade deficit, is in better shape than Germany, with no growth and a trade surplus at the moment.

The US, with its rip-roaring economy, is also experiencing a strong currency and record shortfalls between exports and imports anyone doubt that the US, but nobody would doubt it is in rather healthier condition than Continental Europe, with little growth and a big surplus.

Not everything about a big trade deficit is negative. Consumers get more choice, and it helps to keep inflation low and make industry more competitive and innovative.

Even so, the present situation is plainly not an ideal one. Ideally, Europe would be doing better and importing more, and Japan and the rest of Asia would be climbing out of recession. There is a serious imbalance between the Anglo-Saxon economies and the rest, which is spilling over into the balance of payments.

Trade is the most reliable symptom of sickness in the global economy. Right now there are symptoms galore, both in the widening US and UK deficits, and the recent escalation of trade tensions. We should not be parochial in our gloom and doom.

But neither should we be unduly down in the dumps about it all. Britain's monthly trade gap has never been bigger in absolute terms, but it remains a quite small proportion of GDP which is largely offset by a surplus on investment. The situation was much grimmer in the past, when it was the weakness of the UK economy, not its trading partners, which used to open up the trade gap.

## Internet mania

THE MERE mention of the "I" word seems to be enough these days to rejuvenate a sagging share price.

Judging by the effect on dear old WH Smith yesterday, more should try it. Its more than woolly announcement about teaming up with BT and Microsoft to launch another "free" Internet service provider was sufficient to propel the share price 11.4 per cent higher. Since Dixons launched Freeserve last September, the Dixons share price has more than doubled.

Prospects for Dixons' core retailing business have improved a bit since then, but the bulk of this stellar performance is accounted for by Freeserve. Billions have been added to Dixons' market capitalisation courtesy of this new Internet service. Now WH Smith is hoping to repeat the trick. But as the stock market correctly surmised by marking the Dixons share price down by an equal and opposite amount in response to the WH Smith announcement, not everyone can win in this market.

Few people these days doubt the Internet's power to transform industry, or its vast commercial potential. But actually making money out of it is a different issue, and actually these British retailers based free Internet service providers seem rather less likely to

make good profits out of the Web than most.

As Dixons has proved, retail networks provide a powerful motor for adding subscribers, but as the service is free, having more subscribers doesn't necessarily earn you more revenue. Nor does using the Net to flog your own products help the bottom line much, since the effect is merely to cannibalise existing sales.

WH Smith's Richard Handover was yesterday waxing lyrical about the importance of establishing his service as a fully fledged "portal". Certainly this offers the most likely pathway to profit, since the most successful portals ought eventually to be able to attract very considerable advertising revenue.

The trouble is that this is a fast moving industry and the competition – Yahoo!, Excite, and the like – have quite a heads start. Keeping the millions of non paying customers these new free services attract eyeballed to their own home pages is going to be a challenge most will fail to meet. As a consequence, it is hard to see how the valuations the stock market is attaching to these services can ever be justified.

## One2One

FEEL LIKE an Ein Zwei Ein with Britain's number four mobile phone operator? Or what about an Un Deux Un? Confirmation that One2One has been put on the block by its joint owners, Cable & Wireless and MediaOne, has got the phones ringing hot around Europe as well as in the US of A. Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom will just have to be patient, along with Bell Atlantic, and wait for a connection.

Forget the awkward fact that One2One has never made a profit, or that it is saddled with £1.7bn of debt, or that it is the smallest player with a poor record of service quality in a viciously competitive market. This is the world of cellular, where every figure is as long as a telephone number, especially the valuations.

The most extreme of these puts a price tag of £1.1bn on One2One, based on subscriber numbers doubling in the next year and six in 10 homes owning a mobile by 2004. But even at the bottom end of the range (£750m), it would be a large mouthful, and a painfully diffusive one at that, for all but the biggest player.

The management cannot say so

but they must be praying for a stock market flotation instead. C&W and MediaOne seem to have been supportive, understanding owners. But who can vouch for the French or Germans? Anyway, think of all the freedom, not to mention all those lovely share options, a listing would bring.

One glance at the runaway performance of the Orange share price would tempt the two owners to the same conclusion. The snag is that they would both need to retain sizeable stakes, at least in the short to medium term, and there is no evidence they want to do this.

C&W sees its future in fixed-line telephony and would probably like to exit the mobile sector altogether. Certainly it has plenty to spend the proceeds on – building out its European network and consolidating the US business it acquired through the Internet deal with MCI. For a start, it is also doubtful whether the distraction of owning a (comparatively) small overseas mobile interest forms any part of the master plan of Comcast, the cable giant busy swallowing up MediaOne. So a trade sale seems more likely. Whatever the outcome, Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers have plenty to get their teeth into in the next few months.

## Independent Newspapers upbeat

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, the Ireland-based international media group that owns *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday*, was in upbeat mood yesterday as it announced that currency weakness in New Zealand and South Africa prompted a profits downturn in the year just past.

Liam Healy, chief executive, said the group's strategic market positions, improved economic and currency trends, and the major cost reduction programme now being implemented, position the group well for the current year.

Pre-tax profits fell from IR£100.1m (€85m) to IR£70.0m last year, after taking account of big provisions for restructuring. At the operating level,

BY OUR CITY STAFF

profits were only marginally lower and would have been some 3.6 per cent ahead but for currency weakness in key territories.

Commenting on the results, Dr AJF O'Reilly, chairman, said that more favourable currency conditions, renewed economic confidence and the positive impact of the cost-restructuring programme would have a favourable impact on results as the present year progresses.

"We are moving to 100 per cent ownership in South Africa, we have increased our shareholding in Australia to 41.6 per cent and have launched Independent Digital to capture the group's potential in the electronic arena", he

said. "In the circumstances of the year under review, we achieved very worthwhile results and this is reflected in the enhanced dividend payment to shareholders", Dr O'Reilly added.

A second interim dividend of IR£p per share is to be paid, raising the total for the year by 15.4 per cent to IR£p.

In the UK, operating losses were reduced to £0.9m from £1.6m the year before. In its results statement, the group said that the move to 100 per cent ownership of the Independent titles had enabled it to revitalise one of the great newspaper brands in the world.

Already, this investment was being recognised in awards, including Editor of the Year to Simon Kellner of

*The Independent*. In addition, recent ABC circulation figures confirm the first year-on-year increase for more than three years to 220,000 for the daily and 252,000 for the Sunday, with further improvements anticipated in the coming months.

"Under our full control, losses at the Independent titles have reduced significantly and we are increasingly confident of achieving the three-year target of breakeven we set in March", the company said.

The group plans, through the creation of Independent Digital, to consolidate and enhance its existing Internet-related activities and to develop a coherent infrastructure for them across world-wide operations.

## Fleming reshuffles to give Asia operations a boost

ROBERT FLEMING, one of the City's last independently owned investment banks is today announcing a new management structure which will give a bigger role to the bank's Asian operations but may also put a question mark over the future of Save & Prosper, its £6bn retail unit trust operation.

The business, which is headed by the former chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority Colette Bowe, is to be partially sidelined in the management reshuffle in a move which, some say, may pave the way for the eventual sale of the business.

The bank told potential buyers as recently as last September that the Save & Prosper business was not up for sale.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

However, the recent takeover of M&G, the unit trust group, by the Prudential – at what was seen in the City as a very high price – is believed to have reopened the internal debate within Fleming about whether the bank should now put the business up for sale.

The Pru was one of the groups that expressed interest in buying the brand. Investment banking sources say that a number of banks and former building societies also made approaches over the past twelve months but were rebuffed.

Following last December's deal to buy out Jardine, Robert

Fleming's partner in Jardine Fleming, the Hong Kong investment bank, William Garrett, the chief executive of Robert Fleming, is keen to demonstrate that the bank has a strong platform for developing the bank's corporate finance business in Asia.

Although some within the bank are still pressuring for the bank as a whole to be put up for sale, on a longer term view Asia would offer huge potential for the bank.

However, there is a debate within the firm about whether it can continue funding the expansion of the investment bank and invest enough in the retail business to remain competitive at a time when the savings market is on the brink of fun-



Liam Healy: Group in good position for current year

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### Legal Notices

High Court No. CH 1987 C No. 1  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY  
BETWEEN  
GERALD CORRIGAN and  
ELIZABETH CORRIGAN (his wife) Plaintiff  
And  
LLOYDS BANK PLC First Defendant  
Re: SANDRA CORRIGAN (by an original action)  
LLOYDS BANK PLC Plaintiff  
And  
ELIZABETH CORRIGAN First Defendant  
And  
SEAN CORRIGAN Second Defendant  
And  
SANDRA CORRIGAN Third Defendant  
ORDER

BEFORE DISTRICT JUDGE NEEDHAM, UPON READING the Affidavit of Mr Nicholas R. Johnson filed on the 3rd day of March, 1999, on behalf of the Plaintiff by the Original Action; IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, EX PARTE:  
1. Notification of the final date for the hearing of this action upon the Second and Third Defendants by the Original Action, shall be good and sufficient if the said final date and a copy of this Order is placed in one issue of the Independent, and that notification of the final date be deemed given on the day of publication of the said advertisement.  
2. The final date for the hearing of this action shall be 12 noon on Monday the 9th day of April, 1999, before a High Court Judge sitting at Manchester District Registry, Courts of Justice, Crown Square, Manchester.  
Full details of these proceedings can be obtained from:  
THIS ORDER is drawn by Gledhill, Manchester House, 16-20 Bridge Street, Manchester M3 8BT. Solicitors for the Plaintiff by the Original Action.  
Dated this 18th day of March, 1999.  
Telephone: 0161 832 4666. Fax: 0161 832 1981.

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### CESLIS COMMISSIONING DIVISION LIMITED

The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 58 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poyntons and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Wednesday 7th April 1999 at 10.30 am, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2)(a) of the said Act, Mr S. Lord of Poyntons and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require. Dated this 19th day of March 1999 By Order of the Board SP SCULLY, Director

### Legal Notices

No. 495 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF  
BLMC LIMITED  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE COMPANIES  
ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 24th February 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £175,000,000 to £1,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 11th March 1999.

Dated this 22nd day of March 1999  
Wragge & Co  
Solicitors  
55 Colmore Row  
Birmingham B3 2AS  
Ref: 1238405/NJM/STJ  
Tel: 0121 233 1000  
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 494 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ROVER  
COMPANY LIMITED  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE COMPANIES  
ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 24th February 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £280,000,000 to £1,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 11th March 1999.

Dated this 22nd day of March 1999  
Wragge & Co  
Solicitors  
55 Colmore Row  
Birmingham B3 2AS  
Ref: 1238405/NJM/STJ  
Tel: 0121 233 1000  
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 492 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF  
BROTHERS MOTOR  
HOLDINGS LIMITED  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE COMPANIES  
ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 24th February 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £15,500,000 to £1,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 11th March 1999.

Dated this 22nd day of March 1999  
Wragge & Co  
Solicitors  
55 Colmore Row  
Birmingham B3 2AS  
Ref: 1238405/NJM/STJ  
Tel: 0121 233 1000  
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 491 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF  
ROVER INVESTMENTS  
LIMITED  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE COMPANIES  
ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 24th February 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £980,000,000 to £1,000,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 11th March 1999.


Dated this 22nd day of March 1999  
Wragge & Co  
Solicitors  
55 Colmore Row  
Birmingham B3 2AS  
Ref: 1238405/NJM/STJ  
Tel: 0121 233 1000  
Solicitors for the above-named Company

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Growth	318.70	338.00-33.40	0.00	6.25
Grease Lumps	69.60	73.80	-4.80	2.83
Batch Opps Acc	257.10	271.00	-3.10	2.83
Capital Acc	1414.00	1495.20	-26.70	2.24
Capital Inc	1125.40	1190.20	-21.20	2.24
Commodity Gen	387.10	374.00	-4.60	1.83
Commodity Gen Acc	461.50	486.10	-6.40	1.83
Corporate Bond	31.00	31.14	0.05	2.00

Costs	73.03	77.89	-2.07	1.50	5.563	Fund of Inv Inc	843.10	891.00	-13.30	0.07	5
Share	124.24	132.09	-1.13	0.17	5.263	Fund of Inv/AdvAc	1669.10	1765.20	-26.30	0.07	5
Share/AdvAc	176.41	187.57	-1.60	0.17	5.263	Griffiths Inc	75.75	75.89	0.25	4.00	0
AdvAc	124.45	128.35	-0.19	5.61	3.627	Griffiths/AdvAc	250.72	251.17	0.05	4.00	0
AdvAc	181.62	137.01	0.20	5.51	3.627	Griffiths/General	33.50	39.40	-4.00	0.73	5
AdvAc/Inc	182.32	154.00	-1.60	5.40K	1.5	Griffiths/GenAc	40.90	40.10	-1.00	0.73	5
Inc	651.93	691.18	-4.34	2.83	5.263	High/Griffiths/AdvAc	56.90	57.22	-0.00	7.00K	0

Japan	104.14	114.44	+10.00	0.00	5
or Growth	252.37	377.85	+125.48	0.00	5
Income	92.77	98.96	+6.19	0.00	5
Growth	177.51	187.84	+10.33	0.00	5
Income	166.51	178.20	+11.69	0.00	5
Japan SmallCap	108.50	114.69	+6.19	0.00	5
JapanSmallCapCore	109.70	115.40	+5.70	0.00	5
Managed Growth	32.20	32.44	+0.24	1.43	0
Managed Income	37.10	37.47	+0.37	1.43	0
Pension Except	1425.70	1461.40	+35.70	2.81	2
Pension	80.00	80.00	0.00	0.00	0

one	335.30	256.69	-1.52	3.11	5
in American	62.22	65.00	-1.91	0.00	5.25
Growth	124.87	132.83	-0.72	1.17	5
Spec Sits	76.43	81.50	-0.00	5.25	5.25

Monet's Investment Management					
Market Growth	100.50	107.60	-2.30	0.65	5

Wicks & Spencer Unit Mgmt Ltd					
High Income	112.90	112.50	-0.20	5.165	5
Int Portfolio	229.00	244.40	-3.50	1.20	3
Int Portfolio Acc	293.50	303.00	-4.10	1.20	3
Int Portfolio Acc	188.20	180.20	-3.40	1.20	3

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01222 448472, Dailing: 01222 68251X	Bal Portfolio Inc	122.70	130.00	-1.70	2.31X	5
www.legal-and-general.co.uk	Bal Portfolio Acc	157.00	157.20	-2.40	2.37X	5
68.95 68.95 0.01 4.92X 0	British Gas City	100.10	145.00	-2.00	1.84X	5
ty Acc 1796.00 1796.00 -21.00 1.85X 0	British Gas City Acc	190.30	197.00	-2.70	1.64X	5
ty Cash 832.00 832.00 -4.90 1.85X 0	Cash	100.00	100.00	0.00	6.00X	
ty Income 122.20 122.20 -1.10 1.02X 0						
0.0001						
Cash Acc	167.00	167.00	0.00	5.00X		

• Growth	75.15	75.15	-1.84	1.40K 0	Gold & Com Acc	127.60	137.00	-3.20	0.00K 5.25
• Index	31.01	31.01	-0.78	2.90 0	Gold & Com Acc	111.20	114.00	0.00	3.66K 5
• Index	111.50	111.60	-1.40	2.30 0	• Growth	107.20	113.80	-1.90	0.62K 5
• Index, Acc	115.50	115.30	-1.40	2.30 0	• Index	106.80	113.40	-1.99	0.52K 5
• Recovery	159.30	169.30	-1.70	1.20 0	• Index, Acc	262.00	270.00	-0.70	7.36K 3
• Smaller Cos	202.60	202.60	-1.10	1.33 0	• Growth	115.60	122.00	0.10	4.34 2.25
• Mid-Cap & Smaller Cos	202.60	202.60	-1.10	1.33 0	• High Yield Bond				

160.30	114.70	-2.40	0.29	5.82	MAAMPI Inc/Asst	190.40	204.60	-2.70	3.57%	0
50.16	50.10	0.10	5.65	0	Managed Inc	152.20	158.00	-1.00	3.19%	3

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2
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Asset Class	1988.36	116.39	-5.26	0.00	0
Domestic Acc	108.36	115.27	-3.06	0.00	6
Int'l European Acc	94.82	100.97	-1.66	0.00	0
<b>Domestic Union Tot Managers</b>					
Domestic Deposits Acc	130.60	136.60	0.01	5.97	0
European CFI 1	53.17	(N/A)	-1.44	0.52	0
European CFI 2	83.95	(N/A)	-1.22	0.26	0
US Growth	259.70	276.30	-1.10	0.00	3
UK Equity Inc	373.10	396.00	-2.20	3.33	5
UK Equity Growth	125.10	183.10	-1.86	0.21	5
UK Equity Growth Inc	448.60	477.20	-0.50	2.21	5
UK Smaller Cos	78.57	63.54	-0.50	0.300	5
US Growth	342.40	365.30	-11.40	0.958	5

Corporate Bond CI 1	32.45 (Adj)	0.29	4.62	5	Global Bond Fund	38.62	42.25	-0.41	0.04	5.2	3
K Equity CI 1	58.42 (Adj)	-0.84	2.06	5	Global Bond Inc	61.28	63.31	-0.04	5.04	5.2	3
K Growth CI 1	33.40 (Adj)	-0.83	0.99	5	Global Bond Inc	45.24	46.74	-0.25	5.23	5.2	3
K Equity Income	56.20 (Adj)	-0.52	4.44	5	HighYieldBondInc	48.55	50.16	-0.03	6.99	3	3
K Smaller Cap CI	62.54 (Adj)	-0.76	2.02	5	HighYieldBondInc	48.53	80.15	-0.11	7.00	3	3
MoneyTracking CI 1	55.70 (Adj)	-0.39	1.00	5	Income Acc	1979.51	2111.47	-10.84	2.88	5.2	3
					Income Inc	527.73	562.91	-4.18	3.62	5	3

Account	10/1/04	11/1/04	12/1/04	01/01/05	02/01/05
Regis/PPC Inc	101.40	114.40	-1.80	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	94.42	108.70	-1.80	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	79.64	84.49	-1.89	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	75.87	84.31	-1.68	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	52.00	53.53	-1.48	0.74	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	53.40	57.07	-1.00	0.74	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	299.40	312.00	-10.00	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	28.85	27.36	1.49	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	80.50	28.05	0.28	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	514.82	540.14	-1.65	0.77	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	422.56	450.75	-2.81	0.77	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	123.15	139.10	-2.13	1.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	130.70	139.10	-0.60	1.04	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	116.07	123.00	-1.11	0.00	5.5
Regis/PPC Inc	115.21	123.00	-1.11	0.00	5.5

Asset	Value	Weight	Return	Weighted Return
Money Fund	62.43	67.43	0.01	0.23%
Artifical	198.20	208.20	-6.32	-1.15
Asia Pacific	97.01	96.24	-2.12	-1.40
Corporate Bond	57.69	65.95	0.90	0.10%
Equity	115.16	137.77	-1.37	-2.11%
Equity Fund	70.03	64.55	-0.87	-1.57%
Equity Strategy	118.20	122.90	-1.65	-0.86%
European Opus	103.77	102.61	-1.47	-0.87%
FTSE 100 Japan	87.19	102.39	-3.76	-4.32%

Europe	198.58	170.70	-5.00	0.0	6	6	Phil Crutcher/Manager	95.39	101.40	-6.03	0.00	4.7
Smaller Cos	121.30	129.00	-4.40	1.20	0	0	Schroeder and	00.22	100.22	-2.38	0.00	4.7
							Schroeder/Manager	00.00	101.63	-0.94	0.00	4.7
							UK Smaller Cos	89.95	91.35	-0.10	1.38%	5.2

European Wall Street Managed Ltd							<b>Scottish Amicable Pension Funds</b>					
American Growth	432.42	469.50	-0.28	0.00%	5.25							
AmericanGenTech	432.42	469.95	-4.20	0.00	5.25							
UK Smaller Cos	230.80	248.28	-9.07	0.00	5.25							

100% Base 1/1/2000  
 100% Base 1/1/2000

Company	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546
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Genital Ptds	53.69	74.20	-2.19	1.73	5.25	UK	Bank Lend Acc	69.51	74.74	-0.78	2.08	5.25
High Ptds	57.32	57.32	-0.70	0.00	2.25	UK	Equity Group	84.24	89.70	-0.92	2.11	5.25
High Ptds	53.81	57.56	-0.70	0.80	6.25	UK	Equity Group Acc	119.27	127.00	-1.30	2.11	5.25
Ind PEP	62.25	55.30	-0.83	3.41	5.25	UK	Equity	80.83	63.69	-0.70	3.42	5.25
Ind Ptds	587.89	628.76	-10.48	0.28	5.25	UK	Equity Ptds	92.85	99.04	-1.09	3.42	5.25
Northwry Acc	500.31	621.36	-10.52	0.28	6.25	UK	Global Acc	65.85	69.23	-0.75	1.91	5.25
						UK	Global Ptds	73.44	78.19	-0.85	1.91	5.25
						UK	Global Ptds Acc					

Investing Accounts	31.40	33.29	-0.84	0.00%	5	Global Open Acc	1.98.00	149.00	-1.20	1.16	5.75
Expense Acc	64.02	67.75	-0.90	0.00%	5	UK All Share Mdr	110.00	129.10	-1.50	1.75	7.25
						UK Equity	468.60	498.50	-5.70	1.52	6.25

Japan	109.73	115.90	1.80	0.00	5
Japan Acc	118.60	118.60	1.98	0.00	5
Managed Equity	703.50	673.00	-8.70	2.31	3
Managed Cash	-86.71	-9.27	0.01	0.00	0
Managed Income	164.00	164.00	0.00	4.62	0
Managed Equity Acc	311.50	329.50	-6.20	2.31	5
<b>Sum Life of Canada Bell Index Ltd</b>					
Asia Pacific	15.71	16.62	0.71	0.91	4.95
Asia Deposit	100.92	100.92	0.00	5.90	0
Corporate/Bonding	13.75	14.01	-0.26	5.37	4.65
Corporate/Bonding	117.84	117.87	-0.04	3.37	4.95
European	81.09	85.76	-3.19	0.60	3.95

UK Growths	90.26	95.46	-1.17	1.60	4.95
Worldwide Growth	57.17	60.47	-1.39	0.34	4.95
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T.M. British	588.65	619.63	-0.85	153x5	
<hr/>					
Reynolds Bull Trust M&A Ltd					

Caulfield Management	58.23	60.67	-0.34	3.39	3.75
Managed Income	55.56	58.17	-0.40	3.13	3.75
Sterling Bond CI 1	53.84	(Min)	0.11	4.90x	3.75
<b>Threadneedle Investment Funds (OIEC)</b>					
<b>Netall Sharps</b>					

Investment	Cost	Market	Gain/Loss	% Gain/Loss
AmorGrowthAMM	60.00 (Mk)	72.70	0.00%	2.75
AmorSmlCosEst	52.87 (Mk)	3.67	0.00%	2.75
Asia Growth Cl 1	31.50 (Mk)	-0.77	0.39%	2.75
Emerg Mkts Cl 1	40.32 (Mk)	-0.41	7.04%	2.75
Europe Growth Cl 1	61.23 (Mk)	-1.01	8.62%	2.18
Europe Sml Cos Cl 1	63.94 (Mk)	-1.57	0.00%	2.75

January					
High Yield	130.80	124.10	-0.10	5.11	2.23
Balanced Managed	154.00	161.30	-1.00	2.54	3
UK Equity	148.30	185.90	-2.30	1.16	5
UK Smaller Cos	142.80	151.90	-1.10	1.80	5

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Global Priority	171.00	171.00	0.00	0.00	0
European Acc	171.00	171.00	0.00	0.00	0

UK EasyflowAcc	324.11	597.50	-3.45	135.0
UK EasylineAcc	480.20	510.85	-3.96	3,718.6
UK EasyMetric	458.95	485.24	-3.70	3,112.6

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**Virgin Direct**

**Discovery House, Watling Road, Norwich**

UK Growth Acc	62.38	68.71	-0.35	1.80	5.5
UK Income Inc	58.64	62.93	-0.29	3.70	5.5
Switzerland Velt Trust Regent Ltd					
Challenger	180.41	124.00	-2.70	0.00	4
UK Growth					

Care is taken to ensure that the information provided by Bloomberg and Financial Express for the Independent is correct, but neither warrant, represent or guarantee the contents of the

and scheme particulars are available from fund managers free on request.

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# Takeover fever fails to stem market retreat

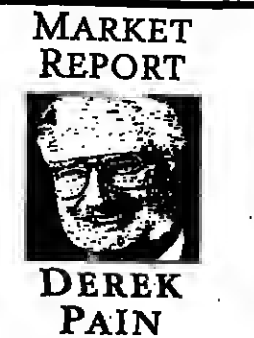
THE MARKET is convinced that a major international deal is planned. As equities continued their ragged retreat, attention was focused on Unilever and J Sainsbury.

The Anglo-Dutch detergent and food giant was said to be about to descend on Revlon, the US beauty business, while Sainsbury was rumoured to be in the sights of Royal Ahold, the highly successful Dutch supermarket chain. Unilever shares dipped 10p to 555p and Sainsbury rose 20p to 390p.

Besides the thought of what could be an expensive takeover, Unilever shares had been under pressure from Lehman Brothers, the US investment house. It said: "The weakness in the Latin America region and collapse in Russia will dampen the group's organic growth in 1999, especially in the first half."

The major retailers are encountering increasing bid speculation, with Ahold, Wal-Mart of the US and others keen to expand in Europe and the UK.

Ahold was quick to pour cold water on the Sainsbury



DEREK PAIN

little window dressing ahead of their first-quarter valuations. The supporting indices also weakened; the mid cap fell 40.1 points to 5,435.5 and the small cap 13.1 to 2,382.

As is often the case when shares are under pressure, the takeover rumour mill becomes hyperactive. Pilkington, the struggling glass group, firmed 2p to 67.5p as speculation returned yet again. Rexam, the packaging group, firmed 4p to 209.5p.

Bid action occurred on the undercard. Stanley Leisure, the bookie, popped up as the bidder for Capital, the casino group. The approach lifted Capital 8.5p to 76p and Stanley 10.5p to 294p.

Gremlin, the computer games group, firmed 2.5p lower to 117p as Infogrames Entertainment, a French group, launched an agreed 120p-a-share offer. Granada, expected to bid for Scottish Media, gave up 61p to 1,143p.

P&O, the shipping line, continued to win friends following its results and planned disposal programme. The shares made the Footsie leader board, steaming ahead a further 56p to 916.5p.

Bass was lowered 30p to 881p on fears that arch rival Scottish & Newcastle was preparing to roll out a profit warning. Scottish fell 10p to 665p, just above its 12-month low, and Whitbread lost 17.5p to 944.5p.

RMC, the cement group, shrugged off negative comments from Credit Lyonnais, firmed 4p to 753p. Dresser Kleenworth Benson said to sell EMI, lowering the shares 9.75p to 424p.

Fashion retailer Next, following its results, fell 23.5p to 718p. Warburg Dillon Read suggested a 900p target.

BAA, the airports group, rose 33p to 675p following an upbeat meeting. With talk of positive passenger growth - the company appears to be banking on 2.5 per cent a year for the next 20 years - the shares attracted analytical support. Credit Lyonnais shift-

ed its stance from sell to buy. SG Securities reiterated its buy advice; it said: "BAA should increasingly be seen as a cheap retailer rather than an expensive utility". Its target is 800p.

Pearson got a lift from a positive US investment presentation, gaining 55p to 1,288p.

Delta, the electrical group that halved its dividend, switched on a 12p gain to 148.5p as the market pondered whether its difficulties will encourage a predator. TTI, the aggressive conglomerate stalking Hall Engineering, is known to be eyeing the company. HSBC put a 220p target on the shares.

Kenwood Appliances produced its second warning in two months, indicating a second-half loss. The shares were whittled 18p lower to 76p. Sira Business Services, the contract cleaner that produced a late warning on Tuesday, fell 0.75p to 2.75p.

KS Broomfield firmed 6.5p to 322.5p after saying it had developed 14 antibodies for breast and lung cancers. French, the textile group, firmed 4p to 24.5p on the arrival, with 7.69 per cent, of Julian Richer, the hi-fi retailer.

SEAQ TRADING: 1.3 billion  
SEAQ VOLUME: 98,553  
GILT INDEX: 115.65 -0.63

# Next expands Web site to revive mail order

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

NEXT, the High Street retailer, is to jump on the electronic commerce bandwagon in an effort to boost the ailing sales of its mail order business.

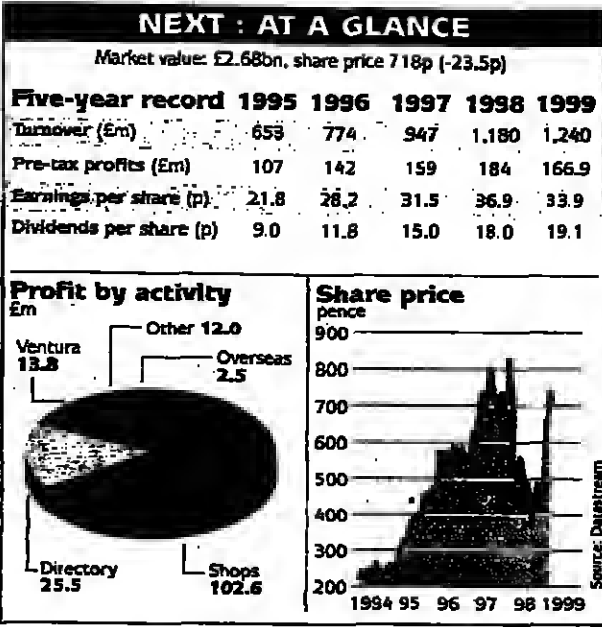
The company said yesterday it would expand its Internet site - www.next.co.uk - to allow customers to order clothes online by the end of the year. However, Internet shoppers will not be able to browse through products on the Web and will still need a copy of Next Directory, the group's mail-order catalogue.

The finance director, David Keens, said the Web was still too slow to carry a 500-page catalogue. He added that it would be "pretty sad" for customers to sit at their computers for hours browsing virtual clothes.

However, David Jones, chief executive, said the online Directory did not herald a major push into e-commerce or interactive television. "It is going to be a slow process for the Internet to replace the phone in the clothing industry."

His comments came after the Directory proved Next's worst performer in 1998, with profits down by 25 per cent to £25.5m. The division, accounting for about 17 per cent of group profits, suffered from increased competition as rivals such as Arcadia and Marks & Spencer increased their presence in the mail order market.

The Directory's sluggish



performance and problems with stocks and women's wear ranges in the high street chain in the first half led to a 9.3 per cent slide in 1998 pre-tax profit to £166.9m on sales up by 5 per cent to £1.24bn.

The figures masked a sharp rise in sales and profits in the second half after Next took radical action to correct the problems. Mr Jones said that the company was back on track. "Twelve months ago I was a sad boy, six months ago I was a happier and now I am much more relaxed about life," he said.

Mr Jones also quashed

recent rumours that the group was to sell Ventura, its call centre business.

The improvement in the latter part of last year continued into the first weeks of 1999, with like-for-like sales in its 327 shops up by 17 per cent on the unusually poor 1998 figures and by 5 per cent on the more normal 1997. City analysts upgraded their 1999 profit forecasts to around £185m from £180m. "Next has emerged from a tumultuous 12 months a much stronger business," said Steve Woolf, retail analyst at Paribas.



David Jones: 'Much more relaxed' after recovery

Industry experts said Next would start feeling the benefits of the restructuring of its warehouses, which should yield a 15m cost saving over the next three years.

The main worry is the Directory, which is set for another sales downturn this year. However, Mr Jones said the company would not chase new customers and would cut marketing expenditure by around a third.

Next shares have had an astonishing run, outperforming the market by 46 per cent since January. They were hit by profit taking yesterday, finishing 23.5p down at 718p. They are now on 20 times 1999 earnings, a discount to the market and to some rivals. With cost savings coming through and an economic soft landing on the cards, Next is a buy for the long term.

# Weir turns predator as sector shakes out

BY ANDREW VERITY

WEIR GROUP, the Scottish pumps and valves company, returned to the offensive in the consolidation of the engineering sector yesterday when it said it had £250m in facilities for acquisitions.

The group revealed the size of the war chest, equivalent to nearly half the group's market worth, just three weeks after beating off a £250m takeover bid by Flowserve, a smaller US competitor. On 2 March, Flowserve dropped its 300p-a-share bid after Weir said it "failed by a wide margin to reflect the company's value."

Weir said the size of its war chest indicated it was now in a position to be a predator rather than a target.

Sir Ron Garrick, chairman and chief executive, said Tuesday's deal between ABB and Alstom, creating the world's biggest power-generating company, suggested more mergers and acquisitions were likely.

Like its rivals, Weir has been forced to look for alternative sources of growth because of the slow-down in the oil and power sectors. Yesterday it predicted only slight growth in profits, saying it would be a "difficult year for the pump business". Alternative plans include growing by a series of "bolt-on" acquisitions.

Duncan Whyte, who in June will join from Scottish Power to be chief executive, plans to develop the group's after-sale service business, where profit margins are higher than in Weir's core business.

The falling demand for core products was offset by increases in other areas. Sir Ron said he expected further defence orders, including contracts to supply three Astute hunter-killer submarines with machinery for launching Tomahawk cruise missiles, of the kind being used in Kosovo.

The City marked the shares down in spite of a 6.5p rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £64m - ahead of expectations. The shares fell 4p to 269p.

Analysts blamed the fall on profit-taking after the recent strong run in engineering stocks. Weir is on a historic multiple of 11, broadly in line with its peers. But a pick-up in orders is expected in 2000. Greig Middleton recommends a buy on a three-year view.

# Television Corp seeks acquisitions

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

TELEVISION Corporation, the TV production and programme supplier, is prepared to spend up to £50m on acquisitions as it attempts to exploit the explosion of digital TV channels.

Chris Rowlands, the chief executive, said he had considered about 60 companies in the past year, including independent production houses and suppliers of television facilities. "We are looking to generate more content," he said. "There are opportunities for rights-related acquisitions at the moment."

Mr Rowlands said the company would consider taking stakes in production companies in order to tie up the distribution rights to their programmes, which are often

under-exploited. However, he added that the prices put on many production houses were currently too high. Earlier this month Planet 24, the Big Breakfast producer, was bought by Carlton for £15m.

Mr Rowlands's comments came as Television Corporation reported a slight rise in profits for the year to December. Before exceptional, pre-tax profits rose to £4.2m from £4.1m. However, the rise masked contrasting performances by its two divisions.

Sunset+Vine, the production and programming side, lifted operating profits by 27 per cent to £2.2m with the help of its long-



Chris Rowlands: Has looked at 60 companies

term agreement to supply sports programmes sponsored by Gillette.

Sunset+Vine's prospects look healthy after it won contracts to provide Chan-

nel 4 with international cricket coverage and Toyota with sponsored wildlife programmes.

On the facilities side, operating profit dipped to £3.4m from £3.8m as several long-term transmission contracts expired. However, the opportunities provided by new TV channels mean demand is likely to carry on growing.

"They are quite well positioned at a time when there are a lot of changes going on with television," said Guy Bell, media analyst at Beeson Gregory. He forecasts profits of £4.9m in the current year, rising to £5.9m in 2000. However, on a forward multiple of 18 times next year's earnings, he reckons the shares - flat at 290p - are fully valued.

# Receivers call shots at Luton

LUTON TOWN Football Club is the latest sporting outfit to be taken over by Buchler Phillips, the receivers of the moment.

Luton, known as the Hatters to its fans, went into receivership on Tuesday after a director, Cliff Bassett (who founded Universal Salvage Auctions) decided to be bought out in his £2m in loans to the troubled Second Division club.

Various bids from Buchler Phillips have in the past month been appointed administrators to Crystal Palace and receivers to Richmond Rugby Club.

John Kelly, one of the Buchler Phillips receivers sent in to Luton, said at the Kenilworth Road ground yesterday: "It is in all our interests for me to get out of here as soon as possible."

By coming in Mr Kelly says he hopes to put an end to the boardroom squabbles which have made it impossible to bring in new investors. Outgoing chairman David Kohler

# PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

still owns 60 per cent of Luton and is owed about £300,000, but the receivers now call the shots.

Mr Kelly says the players' contracts continue, "although as to whether I pay them is my option. We are seeing the Football League next week to try and work out a satisfactory result for all." He could sell players to raise money, but he says he has one big problem: the transfer deadline is today.

A LIFETIME achievement award that has been won in past years by people as varied as The Right Reverend Jim Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Sir Nigel



Rudd, chairman of Williams Holdings, has just gone to Sir David Lees, chairman of GKN and Tate & Lyle.

The going is the 1999 Founding Societies' Centenary Award - the top accolade of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

"I don't think I ever saw myself as a practising accountant," says Sir David, who qualified with Brierley Hamlyn in the City in 1962.

He recalls: "For some reason as a youth I wanted to go into industry. My dad didn't want me to go to university - this was a long time ago - and since I was numerate I thought I would give accountancy a go."

In the 1960s Sir David was chief accountant at Handley Page, a distinguished British aircraft company which proved

too small for his ambitions, and he moved to GKN in 1970. "The wheel turned full circle many years later when GKN bought Westland," he says.

Among many other roles, Sir David was appointed to the board of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden last March, although he has so far managed to avoid appearing in any "fly on the wall" TV documentaries on the house's troubled rebuilding programme.

she had objected at being dragged into the limelight. Incidentally, the dapper Mr Jones was dressed in this season's colours - grey suit, grey tie, grey shirt. Take note.

# Goldman gold

IT IS going to be traumatic for Goldman Sachs when it goes public this summer, having spent so many years as one of the most secretive investment banks on the block. Goldman has therefore gone on a pre-float hiring spree for spokespeople to deal with inquisitive journalists and shareholders.

The bank has hired a chap called John Anchors in New York to be its first-ever director of investment relations. It is also looking for a global head of PR in the Big Apple and a European PR head in the smoke.

Fay is secret, but a source said they were "the kind of mind-boggling amounts you would imagine."

E-mail: jwillcock@independent.co.uk

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	5 years	10 years
USA	1.0000								
UK	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
Australia	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
Canada	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
France	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
Germany	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
Italy	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
Japan	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
South Africa	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
Sweden	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938
Switzerland	0.6922	0.6924	0.6926	0.6928	0.6930	0.6932	0.6934	0.6936	0.6938

INTEREST RATES									
Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
USA	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
South Africa	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Sweden	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Contract	Mar-99	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99	Oct-99	Nov-99
Long Gilt	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Short Gilt	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Long Euro	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Short Euro	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Long US	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Short US	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Long Japan	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Short Japan	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Long India	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92
Short India	116.44	116.50	116.56	116.62	116.68	116.74	116.80	116.86	116.92

INDUSTRIAL METALS									
Commodity	Mar-99	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99	Oct-99	Nov-99
Aluminum	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248
Copper	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119
Gold	1428	1429	1430	1431	1432	1433	1434	1435	1436
Nickel	5115	5116	5117	5118	5119	5120	5121	5122	5123
Palladium	5055	5056	5057	5058	5059	5060	5061	5062	5063
Platinum	5355	5356	5357	5358	5359	5360	5361	5362	5363
Silver	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5	1046.5	1047.5	1048.5	1049.5	1050.5
Zinc	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5	1046.5	1047.5	1048.5	1049.5	1050.5
Lead	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5	1046.5	1047.5	1048.5	1049.5	1050.5



## SPORT

Golf: Europe's leading player is becoming obsessed with ending his bout of Stateside 'seconditis'



I'd love to win over here, I really would. I have been second, but experience has shown me that, if you are one ahead, you have to be three ahead. You have to attack and attack and attack! Empics

## Montgomerie fighting US jinx

WHEN COLIN MONTGOMERIE tees off in The Players' Championship this afternoon, it will be for the 42nd time in a US tour event. Even without being constantly reminded by the media over here, the Scot is all too aware that he does so having failed to win any of those previous tournaments. To say winning on American soil has become an obsession for Europe's No 1 player for the last six years, is no understatement.

Last week, at the Bay Hill Invitational, Montgomerie was given a sharp reminder of his Stateside status when he was drawn in the first group of the day. This is usually the preserve of the great unwashed, while the stars are in the seeded groups for television. Instead of contemplating the enticing prospect of playing a virgin course with no one in the way to hold him up, Montgomerie took it as a snub and, being Monty, voiced those thoughts publicly.

Arriving at the TPC of Sawgrass, the Scot was convinced he would be off this time in the last group of the day. He is not, but then he does have the company of John Daly, or, more particularly, the Wild Thing's fans. Montgomerie has had his problems with vocal spectators and the last thing he wants is further heckling incidents.

Nowhere other than America is winning revered more and nor do the Americans care for Montgomerie's record at home. Not even his wins in at the World Cup, as the leading individual, at Kiawah Island in 1997 and the precursor of the Andersen

By ANDY FARRELL  
in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

Consulting World Matchplay last year count. "The first was primarily a team event, but the other was a really good win, beating Ernie Els in the semi and Davis Love in the final, but it has had no impact over here," Monty said.

"I have proved myself in Europe and now I'd love to win over here," he continued. "I really would. People expect me to win and it does grind a bit. I have been second a number of times but experience has shown that if you are one ahead, you have to be three ahead. There is no point just going for the fat of the green. You have to attack and attack and attack because there will be 20 other guys doing that and one of them will win."

The only consolation in Montgomerie's near misses are that they have come in the bigger tournaments, twice at the US Open, once

in the USPGA and once at the Players in 1996. Then he went into the water at the par-five 16th, while Fred Couples' approach at the same hole bounded over the pond thanks to a lucky bounce on a railway sleeper, allowing him to eagle the hole on the way to victory. "At least I do seem to play well on the tougher courses and this is as good as it gets," he said. "Every hole is a good think, a good test of golf. It has grown into a fantastic course over the last 10 years."

The scale of the tournament is most evident from the fact that the first prize of \$560,000 is greater than the total prize fund at a dozen European tour events. But it is only the first of two important tournaments in three weeks, with the first major of the year, the Masters, to follow at Augusta.

Montgomerie is certainly not saving himself for the latter. "I'll take any win now. I can't be picky. I'd be delighted to win here. It is tougher

to win here than the Masters because there are 150 of the best players in the world and only 80 at the Masters."

Like Lee Westwood, Monty's form so far this year has been as slight as his figure. "I am trying to keep my mouth shut," he said. "There is food everywhere here but I have got to watch what I eat. I am the lightest I have been since I was 18 or 19."

But both Montgomerie and Westwood, as well as Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam, shot 79s in the final round at Bay Hill on Sunday. Westwood's answer was to consult Butch Harmon, Tiger Woods' coach, after his own mentor, Pete Cowen, returned home last week.

"I wasn't playing well and I didn't think there was any point in standing on the range without anything to work on," Westwood said. "Butch kindly said he would have a look and I started hitting it like my old self. It was the same thing I have been

working on with Pete but he just put it over a different way."

Westwood was fifth on his debut at Sawgrass last year, which set the 25-year-old up beautifully for winning in New Orleans the following week. Such form is not far away, he insists. "This is only my fourth strokeplay event of the year and I haven't got a chance to get into any kind of rhythm yet."

In a practice match on Tuesday, Westwood and Darren Clarke gave Lee Janzen and Frank Nobilo "a good trouncing", which was a welcome tonic for the Ulsterman who has been brooding over three missed cuts in four events. "Darren has asked me a couple of times and I've given him my opinion," said Westwood. "At the end of the day we are trying to beat each other, so you don't give too much advice willingly," he added, smiling.

Side by side on the practice range looking in need of any advice going were Nick Faldo and Seve Balle-

CARD OF THE COURSE					
Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	392	4	10	424	4
2	532	5	11	535	5
3	177	3	12	358	4
4	384	4	13	181	3
5	466	4	14	467	4
6	393	4	15	449	4
7	442	4	16	507	5
8	219	3	17	137	3
9	583	5	18	447	4
Out 3,588		36	In 3,505		36
Total: 7,093		yards, par 72			

teros. The pair have won 11 majors between them but their plight was summed up by the fact that they were stationed between the likes of Durrant, Fabel and Hart. Faldo has fallen to 87th in the world and Ballesteros to 468th and have made one cut between them this season.

The prospect of adding to that tally is unlikely this week. The course is drier than in recent years and reminds Tiger Woods, who heads the field with 49 of the top-50 players in the world, of when he won the US Amateur at the Stadium Course in August 1994. Since then, the world No 1's popularity has exploded and when he tried to go into a nearby McDonald's with the Open and Masters champion, Mark O'Meara, a woman server started screaming his name hysterically.

"When you go to smaller places, people tend to react with greater enthusiasm and lose it a bit more," Woods said. "New York is the best place because they don't care about anyone."

drew Coltart and Germany's Alex Cejka, all in qualifying top-10 places, come under further scrutiny from the captain, Mark James, who goes for a second win in this event after success in 1993.

The defending champion in Madeira is Sweden's Mats Lanner. His victory last year helped him regain a card after an 18-month absence from the tour.

## Rocca must start fast in Cup campaign

THE ITALIAN Costantino Rocca makes his debut in the Madeira Island Open, which starts tomorrow, hoping to fight back from a December accident which marred the start of his latest Ryder Cup campaign. Rocca cut his finger badly at the end of last year and was not able to grip a club for the start of this season. He aims to make his comeback this week.

"I was late in starting my season and it's not been that great since I did get playing again," said the 42-year-old Rocca, 27th in the Ryder Cup standings.

"I cut my finger badly with a knife when I was trying to open a bottle of wine on December 30. It sliced a tendon and needed five stitches. It is better now and I need to play more so that's why I'm making my first

visit to Madeira. If I qualify for the Ryder Cup I don't want to arrive there dead physically, so it's important to start playing well now instead of pushing myself right to qualification time."

Rocca is in the strongest Madeira line-up yet, with three potential Ryder Cup rookies bidding for the 816 points for first place. European rankings leader David Howell, An-

drew Coltart and Germany's Alex Cejka, all in qualifying top-10 places, come under further scrutiny from the captain, Mark James, who goes for a second win in this event after success in 1993.

The defending champion in Madeira is Sweden's Mats Lanner. His victory last year helped him regain a card after an 18-month absence from the tour.

## Hearns to make British debut

BOXING

THOMAS HEARNS, Detroit's legendary "hit man", will make his British debut at the age of 40 on the Naseem Hamed hill in Manchester next month.

Hearns will top the undercard in an International Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title fight against the former world champion Nate Miller - 19 years after winning his first world title. Hearns' appearance on the hill had been thrown into doubt when a prospective fight against Ulster's Darren Corbett fell through last week.

Barry Hearn, co-promoter of the show which is topped by Hamed's World Boxing Organisation featherweight title defence against Paul Ingle, insisted Hearns would undergo strict medical examinations before being allowed to compete.

"At the moment Hearns is undergoing the very strictest medical examination under the gaze of the British Boxing Board of Control, to make sure he is 100 per cent fit," Hearn said.

Hearns, also known as the "Mighty City Cobra", has won world titles at five different weights, and in his heyday in the early 1980s he was one of a golden quartet which also included Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler.

A tall, skinny fighter who nevertheless had tremendous punching power, Hearns' greatest moment arguably came in defeat when he fought three of the most brutal rounds ever seen before losing to Hagler in April 1985.

Since losing his World Boxing Association light-heavyweight title to Iran Barbery in 1992, Hearns has kept busy by boxing against unknowns in America. His long-time trainer, Emanuel Steward - who also trains Lennox Lewis - is expected to come to Britain with Hearns for the fight.

Meanwhile Muhammad Ali has added his voice to the growing chorus of criticism over the judging in the recent title fight between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis. Calling the fight "the biggest fix in fight history", Ali said he was humiliated by the fact that the sport "had sunk to its lowest levels."

In a letter to the Senate Commerce Committee chairman, John McCain, a Republican, Ali said: "It was clear to all who watched that the deciding victor of the match was England's Lennox Lewis."

The heavyweight unification title fight between Holyfield and Lewis on 13 March in New York ended in a draw, sparking investigations by a New York City grand jury, a New York state Senate committee, the New York State Athletic Commission and the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

McCain, a boxing fan, introduced a bill this year that would restrict the coercive option contracts by which promoters control a boxer's career, such as clauses forcing a boxer into a long-term deal in exchange for a shot at a world title.

"As the former three-times heavyweight champion of the world, I believe I have the credibility to say Lewis won this bout without question and should have been named the clear and decided victor," Ali wrote.

Ali also added his support to McCain's bill, which is aimed at protecting boxers from exploitation and requiring promoters to be more open about their financial dealings.

The legislation has taken on added importance, Ali said, in light of the disputed draw.

"Professional boxers have for too long been the target of unscrupulous managers and promoters," Ali wrote. "I pray justice will be done and honour can be restored to this sport."

## International players should not need motivation

WHEN WORD got out that Kevin Keegan had agreed to take temporary charge of the England football team, a spontaneous process arose in accordance with his adventurous spirit. "Up and at 'em," the Sun screamed gleefully.

Since enthusiasm was central to the immense reputation Keegan forged as a player and the excitement he generated as manager of Newcastle United, no wonder that England are not expected to want for passion in their European Championship qualifier against Poland at Wembley on Saturday.

Not so much tactical nous and technical accomplishment as the will to win. Certainly, it is well established that nothing much can be



KEN JONES

achieved in sport without putting in maximum effort but, as any number of football coaches have learned to their cost, battle cries are not all they are cracked up to be.

Only last week, Tottenham's di-

rector of football, David Pleat, after overhearing a supporter's assumption that George Graham would wind his players up for the Worthington Cup final against Leicester City, said: "They'll be on a high anyway, so George will probably think it more important to wind them down."

The self-inflicted knee injury that permanently reduced Paul Gascoigne's effectiveness resulted from firing himself up before playing for Tottenham against Nottingham Forest in the 1991 FA Cup final. "Once Paul got out there, it was clear that we hadn't done enough to calm him down," Terry Venables has since said. "You want players to be keyed up but there can be a downside to excitement."

All this stuff about motivation gives rise to some interesting questions. What is this quest for character coaches always going on about? And courage, momentum and pride? Where is the pride in a footballer who needs stimulation to play in a big game?

One thing we have to remember is that many players are so occupied by their small piece of the action and so preoccupied with themselves and their fears that they really have no conception of the big picture of the team or the game.

No manager in history is credited with greater powers of motivation than Bill Shankly, who saw enough in Keegan's enthusiasm to sign him for Liverpool from Scun-

thorpe. Shankly's talent for popular imagery is best represented by a tale John Toshack told one night about an FA Cup semi-final replay between Liverpool and Leicester at Villa Park earned by Peter Shilton's exceptional goalkeeping.

"Surprisingly, Bill didn't show up in the dressing-room until shortly before the kick-off," Toshack recalled. "He just stood there looking at us, hands thrust into the pockets of his raincoat. 'Imagine,' he said 'that you are being battered by George Foreman [at the time world heavyweight champion] and the lights go out and you have to do it again. That's how Leicester feel.' Then he was gone. Perfect. Bloody perfect."

Matt Busby argued that excitable managers sent out excitable teams. To my mind it is no coincidence that England were most successful when the dressing-room was calm and there was a sense of adult responsibility. "We were always ready, often nervous too, but never worked up," George Cohen, of the 1966 World Cup winning team, recalled. "Nobby [Stiles] was always full of it, but the mood was set by Alf [Ramsey] and Bobby [Moore]. When the call came, Bobby simply picked up the ball and said: 'Let's go.'"

Bearing that in mind, if Keegan has made a mistake so far it is in preferring Alan Shearer to Tony Adams as captain. Adams' old rep-

utation as a fist-waving influence has given way to such composed authority that he has never played better or had more respect.

Whatever footballers feel, whatever tringle of anticipation lights up their minds and feet, the significance of a downturn in fortunes is that it makes passion suddenly less relevant, even a burden.

In any case, it would seem that professionals, who by definition are supposed to perform at a high standard, who have highly lucrative careers at stake and families to support and egos to bulwark and team-mates to join in a common cause, have enough natural stimulation without the jive of coaches and managers.

JP 11/10/50



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# Glory and despair - the

## THE MANAGERS

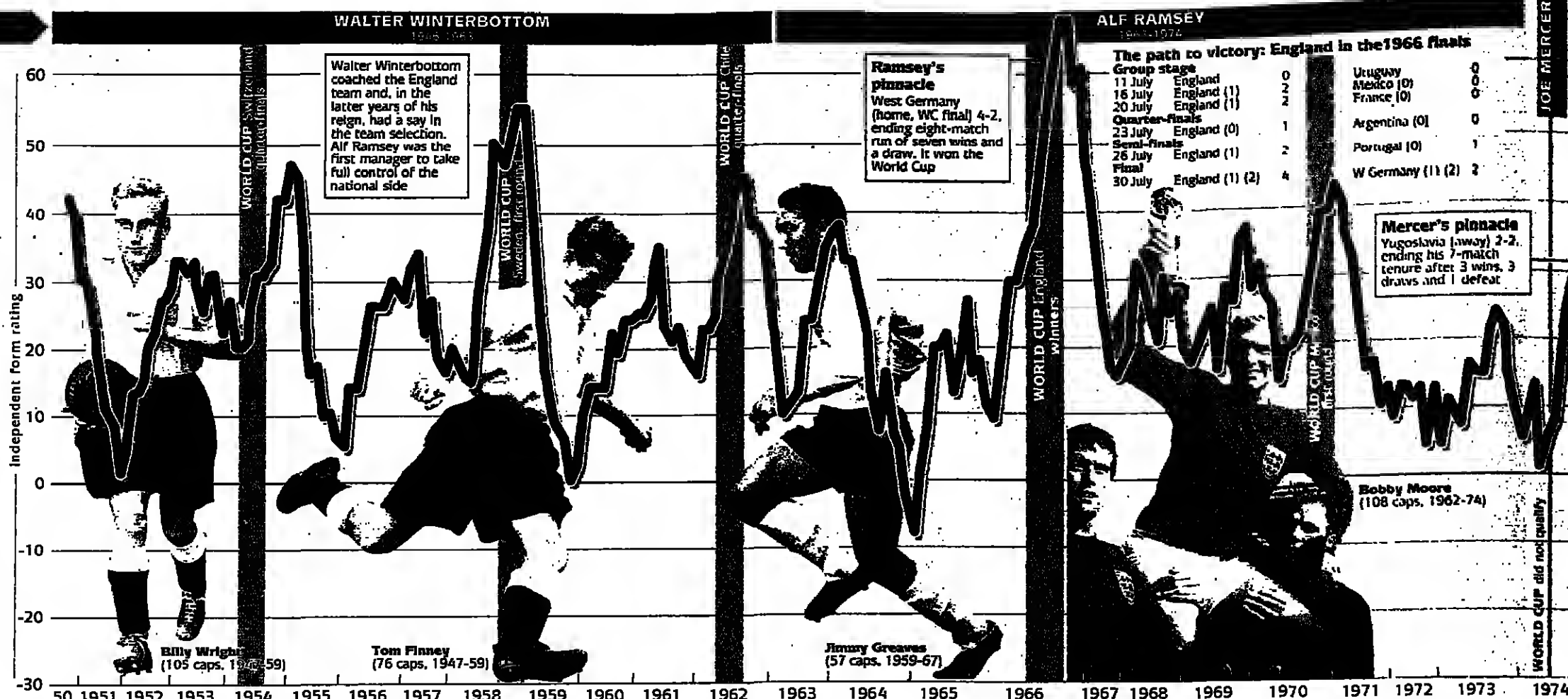
## OUR ENGLAND FORM GUIDE

The Independent has assessed statistically every England result since the 1950 World Cup. Each result has been given a mark according to a ratings system which takes into account the quality of the opposition and the venue for the match, with bonus points awarded for games in World Cup and European Championship finals (see panel below for full details of the rating system).

On the basis of these rating points we have given England a "form" figure after every match and produced the accompanying graph to plot England's progress over the years. In order to give a picture of true form - rather than merely a figure for each individual match - our form figure after each game is reached by adding together the ratings points for the match in question plus those of the previous seven matches (Fifa, world football's governing body, uses a similar system to calculate its world rankings).

Our rankings begin after the 1950 World Cup. Form in the preceding years is difficult to assess accurately because of the post-war turmoil.

RESEARCH: NICK HARRIS  
GRAPHIC: KRISTINA FERRIS



## Carefree style that disguises ambition

"THERE WAS always a part of me that thought I would be England manager, one day," the new man volunteered this week, displaying the sort of sentimental candour with which Joseph Kevin Keegan so cleverly shrouds the hard flame of personal ambition.

When he examines the graph of England's post-war results, printed above, Keegan may wonder what he has let himself in for. It looks like the cardiogram of an incurable manic depressive - and some might say that the diagnosis could hardly be more accurate. The team's progress through the last half-century has been a stomach-churning alternation of elation and despair, with limited opportunities for the in-between emotions such as guarded optimism and low-grade depression. But the new coach would scarcely be human were he not to spend more time dreaming of the peaks than fearing the troughs.

Throughout nine managerial terms there has been remarkably little consistency of achievement on the international stage. Nothing remotely like a plateau separates the triumphs from the disasters. For every 5-3 home defeat by Hungary (1953) there is a 4-2 victory over Germany in the biggest match of all (1966). For every crushing 2-1 defeat in Oslo (1981) there is a valiant and vital goalless draw in Italy (1997). And so on. The art of being England's manager, it seems, is to manufacture a rapid upswing, and then to ride it all the way to the World Cup finals, where inspiration and luck take over. Keegan will not have that opportunity - not, anyway, during this particular term of office, if he sticks to his word - but assuming control at a relative-



RICHARD WILLIAMS

ly difficult moment he has given himself the chance to make a significant difference to England's fortunes and thereby to make a mark that will not be forgotten.

Keegan's life and career have always been closely associated with the national team. As a player, he wanted to be the best. And being the best meant not just winning cups and medals and individual awards in club football but, above all, playing for his country. He won nothing with England other than his 63 caps, yet to anyone not born within a bus ride of Anfield, the residual image of Keegan the player is probably a mental snapshot of a long-haired impsurrying around in white blue shorts and a skimpily tight shirt with red stripes down the sleeves - the national strip of the Seventies.

Born only a few months after the beginning of the period covered by our survey of England's post-war fortunes, Keegan won his first international cap in 1973 and played under four of his nine managerial predecessors - Ramsey, Mercer, Revie and Greenwood. A rift, Robson, caused a bit of a stink by leaving him out of his first squad in 1982, thus ending an illustrious if ultimately un-

fulfilled career with England. Keegan was 31 at the time and felt he had a bit of international football left in him. They usually do.

At it happens, his first goal for England was scored against Wales at Ninian Park in May 1974, as part of the first team selected by Joe Mercer, his predecessor in the role of part-time, short-term emergency manager. Seven years later he had come to embody the essence of English football, as Bobby Charlton had done before him and Gary Lineker would do afterwards. But he was captain of the side, managed by Ron Greenwood, which lost 2-1 to Switzerland in a World Cup qualifying match in Basle and thus became, according to the statistical evidence laid out on these pages, the worst England team since the war.

The reversal of the team's fortunes in the months following that dismal day should be of some comfort to Keegan as he faces the first of his allotted four matches as national coach. For, if the wild fluctuations of a 50-year, 500-game span have any message, it would appear to be that no situation, however grievous it may seem, is irrecoverable.

A week after Greenwood's team fell to the Swiss, Keegan and Trevor Brooking scored the goals that brought a brilliant 3-1 victory over Hungary in Budapest. A further humiliation against Norway in Oslo could not quite undo the good work, and a scrappy 1-0 victory in the return match against Hungary was enough to see England through to the finals. Treatment to Keegan's chronic back injury cost the team his presence in Spain until the final second-round game, against the host

country, but his appearance as a substitute with less than half an hour to go could not deliver the goals needed to carry England through to the semi-finals (in fact, as everyone of a certain age remembers, he missed the chance to put a header into an open goal).

That, poignantly, was his last appearance in the national colours until this week when he proudly donned an England tracksuit and gambolled among his players with a familiar zest, expressing himself physically and verbally on the training pitch at Bisham Abbey. It would probably be a mistake to underestimate Keegan's knowledge of, or interest in, technical matters. But England have certainly never had a coach who so transparently views his term of office as a natural extension of his international playing career and who - consciously or otherwise - sees success or failure as susceptible to the same imperatives.

These imperatives are predominantly emotional rather than academic. Given a squad of international-class players, Keegan would probably place more importance on calls to patriotic and personal pride rather than the rehearsal and execution of sophisticated set plays. And we have seen talented players underachieving in England shirts under virtually all of Keegan's predecessors often enough to know that sending them out in the right state of mind may have at least as much effect as drilling them in the right set of tactics.

The graph tells us that the employment expectancy of England managers is growing shorter - which, since it is also true of senior positions in many other professions (editors of national newspapers, for ex-



Keegan on the training pitch: 'He proudly donned the England tracksuit and gambolled among his players' PA

ample), tells us more about modern life in general than about football in particular. It does not, in any case, apply to the fixed-term adventure on which Keegan is about to embark.

Another possible extrapolation from the graph is the suggestion that any fully fledged term of England management is inevitably terminated by failure - only Winterbottom, Taylor and Hoddle signed off with

victories, and two out of those three, Taylor's 7-1 against San Marino and Hoddle's 2-1 against the Czech Republic, could be described as Pyrrhic. But this finding, too, excludes Keegan by virtue of his special circumstances. And the end-in-years phenomenon is true of football managers in general at the game's higher levels, whether international (such as most of the 20-odd coaches from last summer's World Cup

who are no longer in their posts) or domestic.

As he has done so often during his extraordinary career, Kevin Keegan is admittedly giving the misleading impression of casting his fate to the wind. His assumption of the England post looks like the impulsive gesture of a carefree individualist, and his remarks at this week's opening press conference were designed to convey the impression of a man happy to improvise his

way out of a crisis. In fact Keegan has coolly measured the job to his exact specifications, trimming the odds against success and enlarging the possibility that he will avoid the traditional fall from grace. Alone of all the 10 England managers since 1950, he is in a position to define the exact nature of the task he faces. If he can get his team to play with a similar sense of purpose, the cardiogram could be moving up once more.

## ENGLAND RESULTS 1950-1999

Opponent	W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L
Top eight	7	4	-2	10	5	0	8	6	-1
Next eight	5	2	-4	7	4	-2	6	3	-3
Middle orders	3	-4	-6	5	-2	-4	4	-3	-5
Minnows	0	-7	-10	2	-6	-7	1	-5	-8

Opponent	W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L
Top eight	7	4	-2	10	5	0	8	6	-1
Next eight	5	2	-4	7	4	-2	6	3	-3
Middle orders	3	-4	-6	5	-2	-4	4	-3	-5
Minnows	0	-7	-10	2	-6	-7	1	-5	-8

Opponent	W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L
Top eight	7	4	-2	10	5	0	8	6	-1
Next eight	5	2	-4	7	4	-2	6	3	-3
Middle orders	3	-4	-6	5	-2	-4	4	-3	-5
Minnows	0	-7	-10	2	-6	-7	1	-5	-8









# SPORT

MONTY'S AMERICAN DREAM P24 • PARLOUR'S LESSONS OF LIFE P27



## A chance for Keegan to bury his past

AS KEVIN KEEGAN prepares for his first match as national coach, England supporters will be hoping that he does not seek inspiration from his days as the team's captain.

The *Independent* has carried out a statistical analysis of the results of every England match since 1950 in order to assess the national team's form over the past five decades. One of the study's conclusions is that the lowest point reached in the national team's fortunes came with a 2-1 capitulation to Switzerland in Basle in 1981 - and the captain that day was one Kevin Keegan.

BY NICK HARRIS

The study gives England a form rating after every match, taking into account the game in question and the previous seven matches. The 1981 result in Basle capped an eight-match run that comprised five defeats (including three at Wembley), two draws and one win.

To be fair to Keegan, who was an inspirational figure during one of the least illustrious periods in England's footballing history, he captained the team in only two of those eight matches. Moreover, it was under his leadership that Eng-

land went on to beat Hungary twice to secure their place in the 1982 World Cup finals.

The manager at the time was Ron Greenwood, who in our analysis is in second place behind the World Cup-winning Alf Ramsey as England's most successful manager. Our study

takes into account the results of every game, the strength of the opposition and the venues. Recognition is also given to the importance of matches in World Cup and European Championship finals.

Although Greenwood never took England beyond the sec-

ond round of the World Cup, he was undefeated in Spain in 1982 and his sides were generally successful. Ramsey and Greenwood also occupy first and second places in a table based purely on three points for a win and one for a draw.

Terry Venables, who took

England to the semi-finals of Euro 96, is third in our list. The much-maligned Graham Taylor is in fourth place - a reflection, perhaps, of the fact that his stewardship was not quite as appalling as the collective memory leads us to believe. But for one different result against the Netherlands in late 1993 he could have led the side to the World Cup finals in 1994.

Glenn Hoddle is fifth, despite his achievement in qualifying for the 1998 World Cup. Indifferent performances in France and since last summer have dragged him down the table. Bobby Robson, who has a

World Cup semi-final on his CV, is second to bottom, a reflection of the tough times he endured before Italia 90. Results were not good between the 1986 and 1990 World Cups and although England qualified for the 1988 European Championship finals they lost all three of their games when they got there.

The huge margin by which Don Revie trails the rest is remarkable. Failing to qualify for the 1978 World Cup did not help his record, but is not the full explanation.

The best decade for England was the 1960s, followed by the 1980s and the 1990s. Last Eng-

land supporters get too excited that the current national side is not as bad as they might have thought. Our statistics show that the performance of Glenn Hoddle's team in France last summer was statistically the worst of any England team to reach the World Cup finals.

The 1980s was, by the same measure, England's worst post-war decade. Although the national team failed to qualify for two World Cups in the 1970s, other results in that period lifted the record above that of the 1980s in our study.

Keegan's trail, pages 28 and 29

### HOW ENGLAND MANAGERS COMPARE

(3pts for a win, 1 for a draw)	pts per game	(Independent ratings)	pts per game
1 Ramsey (1963-74)	2.07	1 Ramsey	2.78
2 Greenwood (1977-82)	2.02	2 Greenwood	2.76
3 Hoddle (1996-99)	1.96	3 Venables	2.3
4 Venables (1994-96)	1.91	4 Taylor	2.1
5 Robson (1982-90)	1.79	5 Hoddle	1.96
6 Revie (1974-77)	1.77	6 Robson	1.88
7 Taylor (1990-94)	1.76	7 Revie	1.17

Walter Westwood (who never had full control as manager), Joe Mercer (caretaker for seven matches in 1974) and Howard Wilkinson (caretaker for one match in 1999) not included

### POST-WAR RATINGS

(England performances, assessed by independent ratings)				
Decade	Played	Pts	Pts per game	
60s	100	328	3.28	
50s	84	264	3.14	
90s	101	263	2.60	
70s	99	207	2.09	
80s	116	197	1.70	

## England call surprises Armstrong

KEVIN KEEGAN never quite realised the dreams of the Toon Army when he was manager at Newcastle, but yesterday he made one Geordie's fantasy come true.

Keegan, faced with the loss of three of his five strikers, called up Newcastle-born Tottenham striker Chris Armstrong for England's World Cup qualifier against Poland at Wembley on Saturday.

The summons was a shock for Armstrong, not least because he has been chosen ahead of his team-mate Les Ferdinand, who kept him on the bench for Sunday's Worthington Cup Final success over Leicester. Ironically Armstrong's first training session with the England squad will be at Wembley this morning.

Armstrong is certain to be on the bench at least on Saturday with Alan Shearer and Andy Cole likely to play up front following yesterday's withdrawal of Michael Owen. Robbie Fowler and Chris Sutton. Keegan also lost Darren Anderton who, within hours after extolling Eileen Drewery's healing powers on television on Tuesday night, succumbed to his latest groin strain.

There was better news for Keegan with both his goalkeepers, David Seaman and Nigel Martyn, showing promising improvement with their respective shoulder and back injuries.

For a coach who has spent most of his working life sur-

### FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

rounding himself with forwards, Keegan must have felt very lonely as he coached England yesterday. With Newcastle or Fulham, the solution would have been simple - phone the chairman, ask for his cheque book, and sign someone. With England it is not so simple. With so many foreign players filling the striking positions (Cole is the only English forward among the top three Premiership teams), it is a case of scouring clubs for a fit and eligible player.

Keegan came up with Armstrong whose initial international experience was playing in goal for North Wales. He later won an England B cap but has never been close to the full squad before.

The call-up caps a remarkable rise for a player who gave up the game at 16. After living on Tyneside and in South London with his natural family, he spent time in children's homes before being fostered by Roy and Pam Armstrong in North Wales. Although he played in goal for his local club he did play outfield at school but stopped at 18 to work in a burger bar for £30 a week as a YTS school leaver. A friend persuaded him to play again and he was spotted by Wrexham. Transfers to Millwall and Crystal Palace followed before

he was signed, for £4.5million to replace Jürgen Klinsmann at White Hart Lane in August 1995.

The 27-year-old began well with 15 league goals in his first season but has since been troubled with injury. Keegan, however, said of him: "He has pace and won't let us down. He has had a good season and I know we can rely on him."

"I believed that one or two of the players who had problems might have recovered in time but we have been out of luck. With Michael Owen it was a battle against the clock and I just could not risk either him or the others."

Keegan stressed that Armstrong was in as cover and alluded to the difficulties he had faced when he pointed out that even the under-21s had lost Emile Heskey, who might have stepped up if fit.

Anderton's withdrawal increases the likelihood that either Ray Parlour or Tim Sherwood or both will make a debut on Saturday. Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's club manager at Arsenal, said he was confident that Parlour could play in a central midfield role thus releasing David Beckham to play on the right where his crossing ability could prove crucial.

Wenger said: "He loves to work for the team, has good vision, is powerful, and can provide acceleration in bringing the ball out."



The England captain, Alan Shearer, in training at Bisham Abbey this week, will be anxious to display his powers of leadership and marksmanship against Poland at Wembley on Saturday David Ashdown

## Basler's blow to German morale

BY DAVID ANDERSON

GERMANY'S MORALE problems ahead of Saturday's European Championship qualifying match against Northern Ireland mounted yesterday as Mario Basler, the Bayern Munich midfielder, criticised Erich Ribbeck, the German coach. Basler, upset at being left out of the squad, said Ribbeck only wanted "yes men". Ribbeck is already under pressure following Germany's 3-0 humiliation against the United States last month.

Basler said: "I'm very angry I wasn't even in the pre-selection squad and it seems recent performances do not count. It seems it goes into personal things. He possibly needs players who say yes to everything and he has got his team now."

Basler, 30, who has won 30 caps for Germany, is annoyed that Ribbeck cancelled a clear-the-air meeting between the two. Basler wanted to know Ribbeck's reasons for ignoring him for Germany's last two games against the United States and Colombia.

Basler said: "Even in December he could not give me a particular reason why he didn't select me for the America trip. So we agreed we would talk about my future in the national team, but perhaps Herr Ribbeck lost my phone number in America."

Ribbeck, unimpressed by Basler's sarcastic remarks, commented: "A meeting with Basler was agreed, but why should I speak with him when I read in the newspapers he requires this as a pre-condition for his comeback? I'm not upset about it any more. It's not my job to fulfil the claims of players. I decide who to talk to and whether I talk to them personally or whether I just call them up. I won't be black-mailed."

Basler's attack is one of the last things Ribbeck needs going into the qualifying games against the Irish and Finland, which could determine whether Germany qualify. With so many enemies in Germany, his days could be numbered if results do not improve.

Stefan Beinlich of Bayer Leverkusen missed training yesterday with a knee injury, but is expected to be fit enough to fly out with the rest of the squad tomorrow.

## Full-time treatment for Collymore

STAN COLLYMORE is to undergo full-time treatment for clinical depression. It almost certainly means the Aston Villa striker has played his last game of the season.

The Villa manager, John Gregory, had talks with Collymore about his situation on Monday, after which it was decided that focusing totally on conquering his off-field problems was the best course of action.

Yesterday, Gregory said: "I do not expect to see him back this season. He won't be training with us at all, as we have decided to send him back full-time to the clinic. It is a decision that we have reached after discussions with everyone."

Collymore has started Villa's last three games, but Gregory

BY IAN RODGERS

added: "He should have full-time treatment to overcome what is a particularly difficult problem. There is no date set for his return, but I don't expect to see him until after the season is finished."

A leading consultant, Dr Cosmo Hallstrom, predicted yesterday that Collymore will make a full recovery. But Dr Hallstrom, a fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said the player would be more likely to regain full fitness, both mental and physical, if there were more stability in his life.

"Footballers live in unreal worlds... all barriers and boundaries are lost," Dr Hallstrom said. "Normal constraints of social interaction are gone - every time you go out for a drink, there is a photographer following you or someone else is watching you. You're never sure if people are being nice to you because they like you. They live a very unreal life."

Gregory has previously made it clear he would rather sell the player than risk further unsettling his dressing-room. But he insists the decision to dispense with his services for the rest of the season was not

prompted by Collymore's reported criticism of the team's defence following Sunday's 3-0 home defeat against Chelsea. "People can think what they like and I can't stop them," Gregory said. "But I've explained the reasons why this decision has been taken and that's the end of it."

Dr Hallstrom added that Collymore's problems were down to the stresses and strains of modern-day football. But he insisted that earning a huge salary like Collymore's was no security against the illness, as some might claim.

"Having loads of money is no

guarantee of protection against depression, which hits the high and the low," Dr Hallstrom said. "There is a distinction between depression and unhappiness."

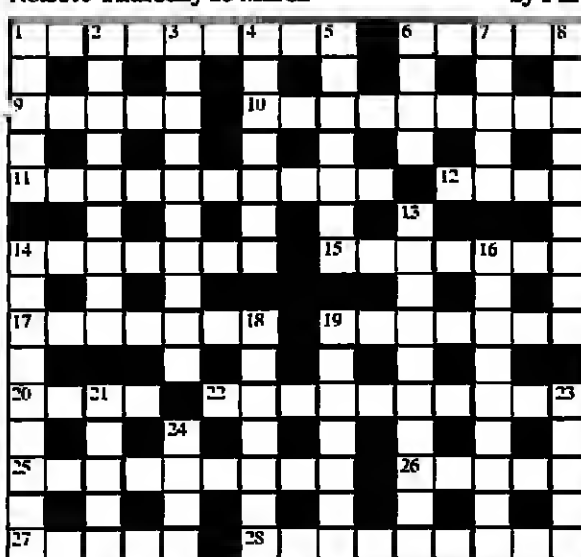
"At one end of the scale is unhappiness when things go wrong for you. But at the other end is depression, which is associated with a loss of function and that is very common. One in 10 people will suffer depression in their lives."

"Collymore's problem is probably stress-related. Stress is a major factor in clinical depression. The symptoms are loss of sleep, irritability, drinking and poor performance. Stress is very common. You need to go away and get some rest and catch up. You need to stop the world and get off."

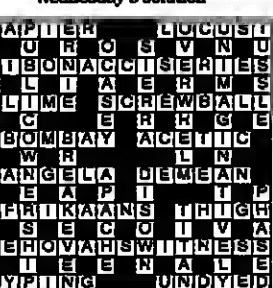
### THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3879 Thursday 25 March

by Phi



Wednesday's solution



#### ACROSS

- Eating implement for meat obtained by credit (5)
- Robot's energy given to lunar vehicle (5)
- Very fit, looking like a blur? (5)
- What's worn at Ascot, around end of Ascot? Well I never! (5,4)
- Principal lecturer securing a cosy billet (all but) (10)
- The regret is genuine (4)
- Chap from Newcastle, say, having to turn back or perish (7)
- Method of reducing level of shock? (7)
- Rocks child of few words endlessly (7)
- Keep organised with this computer language (7)
- Weapon taking care of mum (4)

#### DOWN

- Seaweed showing rare change at sea (10)
- Wall-covering representing a gay plant (5)
- Christian martyr almost entirely forbidding (5)
- Orchestra in auditorium - premiere from Elgar (5)
- Neglect or care? (5)
- DJ, perhaps, producing new version of old song (5)
- Where high-level worker pulls out all the stops? (5,4)
- Walk, run and climb on this? (10)
- Not home early? When female comes in, blow up! (7)
- Chap in the dog-house, having left out half of them (7)
- Artist's going to try tem-

- pera, finally (4)
- Operetta composer's dramatic monarch capturing hearts (5)
- Attacked by insects, article's consumed during Monday (4-5)
- Glares unhappily during stories - lightweight material (10)
- Aggrieved at charges, try to get in for free (5)
- Tear strip off collar in item of luggage (9)
- Wash imitation toy bear, removing a bit of hair (7)
- Accepted apology connected with digging up of grave (7)
- Is a shopping arcade unambitious? (5)
- Nine players? Not entirely eleven, one thinks (5)
- Athlete was a blast, we hear (4)



# THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## Apocalypse now



*'The heads had been taken just a few hours before, and they looked... they looked like all the other heads I had seen. I have never worked in such conditions before, and nor has anyone I know. I don't know how to describe what I feel, but it is something close to shame'*

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
WITH THE CANNIBALS OF BORNEO

I saw my sixth and seventh heads on Tuesday afternoon, in a Dayak village an hour's drive from the town. They were visible from a few hundred yards away, standing on oil drums on either side of the road, with a crowd of about 200 people milling around them. Most of the onlookers were men, but there were young women and children there too. "What do you want to do?" said the man who was accompanying us, a Dayak leader in his fifties. I said I wanted to have a look. We walked up towards them, past the warriors with their spears and red headbands and hunting rifles. Even in big cities in Indonesia, people shout greetings when a foreigner passes by, but these people looked at me with indifference. The heads had been taken just a few hours before, and they looked... they looked like all the other heads I had seen.

They were a middle-aged couple, a few years younger than my own parents. Their ears and lips had been shaved off with machetes, giving them a snarling, sub-human look. The wife's nose had also been removed, and a cigarette had been pressed into the cavity. Her eyes were clenched tight shut, and above them an atrocious wound had been cut deep into her forehead. Why did I take photographs of the heads, knowing perfectly well that no newspaper could ever print them? Was it really in order to document the event and gather evidence? Or were there baser, more prurient motives?

I have never worked in such conditions before, and nor has anyone I know. The experience produces two contradictory reactions. The first is relief, along with secret pride, in finding oneself able to confront horror without being overcome by fear or nausea. The second reaction takes the form of troubling questions which nag at you at odd moments. Why am I not more upset by this? What is wrong with me? I don't know what to call such an emotion, but it is something close to shame.

Two years ago, when a similar war broke out between the Dayaks of Borneo and the hated settlers from the island of Madura, few people outside the island realised the scale of what had happened. I visited Borneo more than three months later and spent a week searching for evidence of cannibalism and headhunting. I found several witnesses, some grisly photographs, and a few skeletons in the jungle, but not the proof that I secretly knew I was looking for.

Afterwards, I wrote two long newspaper articles and a 30-page magazine account - 20,000 words altogether - all about falling to find a severed head. In the past six days I have seen seven of them, along with a severed ear, two arms, numerous pieces of heart and liver, and a dismembered torso being cooked over a fire by the side of the road - and I find myself at a loss over what to say. The most devastating thing about cannibalism and headhunting is not the fear and the blood, but the terrible, profound banality.

There were 2,000 Madurese living in the area around the village of Montrado when the violence erupted after the murder of a Dayak boy last Tuesday. Along the coast, killings had been going on for a month, and more than 10,000 people were evacuated. But, unlike those who lived close to the main road, there was little chance for the islanders to evacuate, and their only choice was to flee into the jungle in the hope of reaching the town of Singkawang.

This is one of the most isolated parts of Indonesia, but the narrow roads through it are thronging with people, Dayak warriors gathered from scattered parts of West Kalimantan. Every 200 yards you come across another road-block or a patrol, and you have to slow down and hand out cigarettes, and reassure them that there are indeed no fleeing Madurese in this car.

An hour or so after seeing the heads, just after the human barbecue, we are waved down by a group of young warriors on the road. My Dayak friend is nervous. The local leaders and civil servants - Christians, like almost all their people - know that they have lost all control here and are wary of squandering what little authority remains to them. A few minutes earlier, I had found myself parting with a 10,000 rupiah bill (about 75p), a "loan" as it was called, to a tall young man carrying a transparent bag of liver tied to his belt. Now, as our Jeep slows, another warrior opens the door, smiles apologetically and jumps into the back. Great, I think to myself. First, I gave a cannibal a tip - now I am giving them taxi rides.

Our cannibal is a teenager. He is shirtless and wears neat denim jeans and worn trainers. In his hand he carries a sheathed mandau, a hacking machete, with a red-painted handle carved into the shape of a horse. It appears to be brand new, the kind of thing you would buy from a tourist craft shop. When the Dayaks are on the trail of a flagging victim, they wail out "Woo-woo-woo-woo!" like Apaches in a western movie. My new friend looks like nothing so much as the participant in a giant game of cowboys and Indians.

He is chattering with excitement about the things he has seen and done. He tells us that the man whom they are cooking on the road was caught this morning. "We killed it and we ate it," he says, "because we hate the Madurese." He has taken part in four killings himself. "Mostly we shoot them first, and then we chop the body. It tastes just like chicken. Especially the liver - just the same as chicken."

I tell him about the conversation I had earlier with a village chief, who saw the heads of several children, including two babies, but he shakes his head and laughs. "We don't kill babies! If we find a baby we give to other people. In fact we found a kid and a baby and we saved them."

"How old does someone have to be before you will kill them?" I ask. "Around 13 or 15," he says.

"Why do you kill them? Why don't you just send them all away?" "Because we hate them."

Twenty minutes down the road, he gets out at his village. He is bubblingly grateful. We have saved him a long walk at the end of a long, exciting day. Our driver, a garrulous Christian from the island of Flores who has lived around here for years and seems to know everyone, speaks up. "You know, I've been all over this country - to Sumatra, to Java, all over eastern Indonesia," he says, "and these people - they're the nicest, the friendliest, the best. There's no one like them."

He is perfectly serious, and what he says is true. There can't be any doubt that this is evil in its most bestial form, a 20th-century heart of darkness. But these are not evil people, and this is not an evil place.

Borneo is the world's second-biggest island. It is a rich, equatorial land of forests, gold mines and plantations, but the people who live here are poor. The Dayaks are its original inhabitants, a scattered collection of different tribes who have lived in Borneo for thousands of years, dwelling in communal houses, practising a form of animism, and surviving by hunting and by slash-and-burn agriculture. Dayak warriors increased their prestige and brought good luck to their villages by collecting the heads of rival tribes in highly ritualised, set-piece raids. Certain of the victims' organs, including the heart, brains and blood, were believed to bestow potency on those who consumed them, and the heads were preserved and worshipped in elaborate rituals.

Borneo's coastal areas are dominated by Muslim people called Malays, although the majority of them are ethnic Dayaks whose conversion to Islam began in the 15th century. Over the centuries, and especially in the 20th, other races have settled to form sizeable communities from all over the vast Republic of Indonesia - Chinese, Javanese, Sudanese, and Bugis from the island of Sulawesi. Then there are the Madurese.

What is it about the Madurese?

They come from a small, dry, barren island off the east coast of Java and, throughout Indonesia, they are frankly reviled. Two beliefs in particular are almost universal. The first is that Madurese women, for reasons too technical to decently explain here, are exceptionally gifted lovers. The second is that the Madurese character makes them impossible to live with. According to this view they are clammy, aggressive and predatory. By tradition, Madurese men carry curved rice-sickles, called *cilurit*, which they use at the slightest provocation.

"They cannot exist peacefully alongside others," a Chinese friend said to me. "Madurese just love to fight and steal." Hearing this often enough, you begin to believe it. But it also sounds unpleasantly like the kind of consensus that has built up at various times about Romany gypsies, or about Jews.

I have never got to know a Madurese. But Borneo's other people, like most Indonesians, are indeed kind and welcoming folk. All over the island, and for decades, mining and plantation companies from Jakarta have seized land which, for thousands of years, they have regarded as their own. Under Indonesian law, any land for which there is no written title belongs by default to the government. The Indonesian word

that you hear over and over again is "adat", usually translated as "traditional law". It is *adat* which is violated when somebody steals durians from the tree that has always belonged to your ancestors, or waves a sickle at you when you remonstrate with him. "In the eyes of Dayaks," a Catholic Dayak teacher said, "when people do not respect our *adat*, they become enemies, and we don't consider our enemies to be human any more. They become animals in our eyes. And the Dayaks eat animals."

But who would do this, even to an animal? Decapitation and cannibalism are deeply symbolic practices, the ultimate humiliation of a defeated enemy. Cut someone's head off and you reduce him to a pantomime mask. This is the point about severed heads - they don't look fearful so much as comical, like Hallowe'en pumpkins. After dropping off my cannibal, I drove back to the town's hotel where a number of journalists sat in the bar - cameramen who had spent the day taking pictures that will never be printed, and reporters with notebooks full of events they will never properly be able to explain.

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## Crisis over Kosovo

Sir: I am a British citizen living and working in the north of Yugoslavia. I teach English and am involved in teacher training.

I have chosen not to leave the country, and instead to share the fate of my hosts. Much as I dislike the dictatorial system of government in Yugoslavia and disapprove of the brutal way the Kosovo crisis has been handled so far, I am completely opposed to Nato intervention in general and air strikes in particular.

It is clear to me that the Serbian government will not be bombed back to the negotiating table, however considerable the damage caused by air strikes. By allowing military action to take place, I fear the West are letting themselves in for a long and bloody conflict that would soon involve a number of other countries and entail the loss of many innocent lives.

JOHN ROGERS  
Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

Sir: Bombing Kosovo is illegal, immoral, impractical, and very dangerous for us all.

Illegal because the UN charter expects unanimity amongst the permanent members of the Security Council before war starts. Two members out of five are against the war.

Immoral because this is not a just war. The level of force proposed, and which will be necessary after the inevitable escalation, is out of proportion to the problem. And we are closet partisans: we want the KLA to win.

Impractical because remote action will not be effective. Withdrawal of the OSCE monitors has already precipitated a troika by the Serbs. In the second World War the Germans with all their military might and punishment killings could not overcome the Yugoslav Partisans. In Vietnam the US burnt civilians with napalm from a high but had to engage with troops on the ground as well.

Dangerous because escalation is inevitable. The world will be drawn into this.

So our policy must be changed. We have to stop posturing as policeman, prosecutor, judge, jury and jailer when we think it suits us. If we feel justified we should send our army into the field to separate the combatants. That would lead to loss of our own people, but probably not as many as will fall when the present policy leads us into long and deep conflict.

In parallel we should mount a strong humanitarian aid programme. These people are part of Europe; one day we shall want to see them in the European Union. Then we shall spend vast sums to facilitate their accession. Let us spend a bit of that straight away.

JOHN DEXTER  
Hythe, Hampshire

Sir: During the Second World War, Yugoslav partisans tied up tens of thousands of Axis troops backed by a Luftwaffe with total air supremacy. The partisans, aided by Allied advisers, were never subdued.

This is not to excuse the actions of the appalling Milosevic regime. Rather it is to point out that the current generation of Western leaders pay insufficient regard to the recent past.

When Britain was blitzed in 1940 the country's resolve to fight on alone was strengthened. Germany was almost razed to the ground by the RAF and the USAAF but, as I and others still around knew to our cost, their troops fought hard to the bitter end.

No, I don't have a solution to the problem of why people are persuaded to kill each other any more than I had when as a teenage in khaki I scrambled from a tank wrecked by gunfire a couple of days before the war ended. But I know that history has a habit of repeating itself.

TONY HEATH  
Breccon, Poles

Sir: With only sticks and no carrots in this deal, the Serbs really have no choice but to oppose the ongoing destruction and partition

of their homelands. If economic sanctions against Yugoslavia were lifted, Nato guaranteed the safety of Kosovo's non-Albanian population and issues of Yugoslavia's territorial sovereignty were unquestioned, then Milosevic might be more amenable to make a deal.

Bombing the Serbs will remove any remaining diplomatic leverage could have been exerted over Milosevic, possibly giving him an excuse to expel an estimated 400,000 illegal Albanian immigrants in Kosovo. This would create a worse humanitarian nightmare than we have currently.

Dr MICHAEL PRAVICA  
Yorkers, New York, USA

Sir: The West has been manoeuvred by the Albanians into helping them achieve their aims, using the now familiar Balkan ploy of maximising the televised misery of their own citizens.

Trapped by their own rhetoric, "our leaders" dare not pressure the Albanians, whose military forces started an armed insurrection they could never hope to win and whose political leaders refused to use the massive electoral advantage in Kosovo to vote their own representatives to Serbia's parliament and change things democratically.

Why should "our boys" be sent to die for a Greater Albania?

BRIAN POCOCCO  
London W6

Sir: The US is violating a number of international laws in attacking Serbia.

Article 2 of the UN Charter prohibits the use of force against a sovereign state where it has not committed aggression on other states.

Nato's own charter claims it is a defensive organisation only committed to force if one of its members is attacked.

The so-called Rambouillet "agreement" (there was no agreement by Serbia) is a violation of the 1980 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



HMS Invincible No 4: An Arab dhow adrift in the Gulf is treated with suspicion at first, but a boat lowered from Invincible establishes that the vessel is not of fuel. The aircraft carrier supplies the local sailors with enough diesel to complete their journey to Iran, free of charge.

Neville Elder

which forbids the use of coercion and force (such as Nato bombs) to compel any state to sign a treaty or agreement.

The Helsinki Accords Final Act of 1975 guarantees the territorial frontiers of the states of Europe. If the sequel to the bombing is recognition of Kosovo as an independent state, this will violate international law that prohibits recognition of provinces that unilaterally declare independence.

These unlawful actions will set precedents that will undermine stability elsewhere in the world.

GEORGE C THOMAS  
Department of Political Science  
Marquette University  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Sir: The last regime which resolved to eradicate the Serbian threat was the Third Reich.

We certainly are in illustrious company.

DAVID JOHNSON  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Helping the able

Sir: What a relief to read such a well-researched and well-argued article as Deborah Orr's piece on Labour education policy

(Comment, 23 March). It is refreshing to have journalists like Ms Orr base their arguments on such large samples (herself and her brother).

It is a pleasure to see her avoid ad hominem arguments (of course Tony Blair should be disqualified from having anything to say about education policy, since he went to a public school).

I admire her solid logical argument (setting should be made compulsory, therefore we should avoid treating children from the same school differently by inviting some to attend master classes).

I gasp at her ability to equate like with like (sending children to separate schools at 11 is obviously the same as inviting some children to attend extra classes).

She is right. In my experience as a teacher in a comprehensive school, today's youth are feckless and uninterested in academic work.

They are more interested in being cool than attending master classes.

Any policy which suggests otherwise is clearly misguided.

Let us for goodness sake discard the idea that any youngster today might be

interested in attending school on a Saturday. That is for "boffs".

S P GOSLING  
Wantage, Oxfordshire

Sir: If a school has to accept the whole range of children, then the majority will fall into the average IQ band. Less able children may receive separate teaching; some are "statemanded" and are allocated extra money for special help. These children are selected.

Children whose IQ is high (125 and above) are not so selected at present; they receive no extra care, and often they cannot wait for the pace that suits them because the teacher may wait for the whole class to understand or complete work before progressing. This is especially true at secondary level.

Worse still, such children may be envied for "cleverness", are often teased and sometimes bullied, with the result that they try to hide their ability. In mild cases this results in under-achievement; at worst it leads to disaffection or disturbed behaviour.

In inner-city schools – those targeted in the Department of Education's plans – the proportion of under-achieving children antagonistic to the more academic

onus should be on the makers to prove safety beyond all reasonable doubt.

J PHILLIPS  
Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: We regret Alec Barton's difficulty in obtaining information about the National Code and Number Change (letter, 23 March). Can we direct him to the correct telephone number? This is 0800 22 4 2000 (and not 0800 22 4 2000 which, as he says, is unobtainable). Or indeed our website at [www.numberchange.org](http://www.numberchange.org)

PETER F CLARK  
Co-ordinator, National Code & Number Change  
The Big Number  
London WC2

escaped from the sneers of my colleagues in industry and became an academic.

Professor GEORGE SOLT  
Olney, Buckinghamshire

Sir: So mobile phones "can make you smarter" and "significantly improve the speed [of] mental tasks" while they are switched on. Before the manufacturers blow a smug raspberry at cautious critics, might I remind people that amphetamines have the same temporary effect, but no one would dispute the damage done by long-term use. The

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J PHILLIPS  
Newcastle upon Tyne

## Another country

Sir: Terence Blacker correctly identifies "misunderstanding between urban and rural dwellers" (Comment, 17 March). However he paints a picture of confrontation that will benefit neither town nor country.

He condemns farmers for greed and environmental destruction. Yes, much harm has been done to our countryside by modern farming methods. Yet this was driven not by farmers but by national and European government, with half a century of subsidies and exhortation aimed at greater food production. That we still have one of the most conservation-rich countryside in Europe says much for the many farmers who have resisted the destructive forces.

The vast majority of farmers are in the industry because they love the countryside. If they really were the "hard-eyed businessmen" to whom Terence Blacker refers, they would long ago have sold up and put their money in a building society. Farm incomes fell by 56 per cent last year yet farmers are struggling to remain in the vocation they love.

Mr Blacker asks whether the countryside should be treated as the farmer's factory floor or a leisure resource. It can perform both roles, but only if those who visit rural areas are sympathetic to the livelihoods and needs of those who live and work there.

RICHARD BURGE  
Chief Executive  
The Countryside Alliance  
London, SE11

## The global bathtub

Sir: Roger Harrabin's article "Plumbing the depths in the search for sleaze" (Review, 23 March) partially reflects my experience of press coverage of environmental issues. I direct the international co-ordinating offices for two projects of the World Climate Research Programme – an international effort to understand the earth's physical climate system. It is improving our understanding of global warming, of the predictability and impacts of El Niño events and of the crucial roles played in climate by polar regions and oceans.

This research is arguably among the most important for mankind, since ability to make predictions of sea-level rise, of storms and floods in a fundamentally changed climate will have enormous socio-economic impact.

Media interest in this research is hard to foster since it does not have the visual impact of the launch of the international space station or the emotive appeal of a new breakthrough in cancer treatment.

In fact the greatest interest in the WCRP project on the role of ocean circulation in climate was triggered by two events – the loss in mid-Pacific of a container loaded with plastic bath toys (could we predict where they would wash ashore?) and the recent story of a message in a bottle taking six months from Ipswich to Australia (how did it get there?).

There are two conclusions. Stories with striking visual impact or human interest (however trivial) will almost always receive coverage and scientists really have to work hard and imaginatively to inform the public about their research.

Dr W JOHN GOULD  
Southampton Oceanography Centre

## Who are you?

Sir: "How to recall what's name" (23 March). You pose the question but do not provide the answer.

Please allow me. You see your old friend approaching in the street and cannot bring his name to mind. Hiding your horror you greet him warmly: "Great to see you but I've forgotten your name." He tells you his forename (or second name). You clap him on the shoulder and say: "Of course I know your forename (or second name), how could I ever forget it? It's your other name I can't recall."

There was no question of anyone being damaged in any way.

NICOLAS WALTER  
London N1

There was another fine pianist on show, of whom I had never heard, with an even more unjazz-like name than Jason Rebello, one Keith Harrison-Broninski.

"You should check him out," Nick Sorensen told me. "He lives in Nunney, and is starting a monthly Jazz Café there, on the first Sunday in every month."

This sounded so unlikely that I bestirred myself on the first Sunday in March and went to Nunney, a charming village notable hitherto only for a great ruined castle and a grand old author, Anthony Powell.

The village seemed empty, which turned out to be because the village hall was jam-packed, not with jazz fans particularly, mostly with locals just sitting reading the Sunday papers, chinwagging, eat-

ing, drinking and listening to the fine trio led by Harrison-Broninski, and the able musicians and singers who took it in turns to sit in with the band, including the very same Nick Sorensen. There was an art exhibition round the wall. There was a record dealer from Frome with a stall selling old and rare jazz LPs, from whom I bought too many. There were little girls skating between the tables and falling over. There was a bar. It was Sunday afternoon in the depths of the country. I couldn't quite believe it. It was quite one of the most magically congenial settings I have ever sunk back into, and for a moment it made it seem as if this was how jazz was meant to be.

Yes, there are times when it's possible to reconcile yourself to being out of London.

GEORGE WHITE  
Bathpool, Somerset

## Who needs Waitco's – or Ronnie Scott's for that matter?

THERE ARE various fallacies that govern British life, such as the belief that the weather forecast is roughly accurate, that nothing much happens outside London, that you can't get beef on the bone any more, and that things in supermarkets are cheaper than elsewhere.

Well, last week the forecast kept saying that the end of the week would be wet, windy and wintry. It turned out to be a succession of warm blue days. Then the other day in a butcher's shop in a small country town not from Bristol, I bought some oxtail, openly for sale, and was told, with a wink, that ribs of beef were generally available to friendly customers.

As for nothing happening outside London, and supermarkets being cheap, I can cast doubt on both

those ideas by referring you to farmers' markets, a new version of an old idea which seems to have returned to the West Country. Twice a month in Bath any farmers who care to set up stall congregate in the old Green Park Station to sell their own meat, cheese, vegetables, cream, sausages, pâtés, whatever they produce on their own farms. The Bath market is OK, but I actually much prefer the monthly farmer's market in the old Cheese and Grain Hall in Frome, some 20 miles away, as the variety of stuff seems to be better there, and there is a stall selling smoked sausages, not to mention the locally brewed Ash Vine beer from Trudoxhill. And they have live music. Fiddle and guitar. Never get that at Tesbury or Waitco.

The last time I went to the

Frome farmers' market (the next time it happens, if you're around that way, is this very day, Thursday) I took a pencil and notebook and jotted down as many prices as I could. The next time I was in a supermarket in Bath I compared the prices of all comparable things such as minced lamb, free range chickens and fresh ham. There was not a single instance in which the supermarket was cheaper.

As we are constantly being told that our British food industry is the most efficient in the world, it seems surprising that a bunch of Wiltshire and Somerset farmers can, without a great deal of effort, provide far better produce at cheaper prices than the combined might of Asda and Waitbury. Perhaps it's true, after all, that the true efficiency of our great supermarkets lies in

making profits and forcing British apple varieties into extinction, not in providing the best service...



MILES KINGTON

As for nothing happening outside London, and supermarkets being cheap – I doubt both

One of the few things that make me regret having left London is being so far from Ronnie Scott's Club, whose opening day I can remember, and which is now amazingly celebrating its 40th birthday. But jazz pops up in the most unlikely places out of London. There is a new concert venue in Bradford-on-Avon called the Wiltshire Music Centre, a glittering place bang next to the highly thought-of St Laurence Comprehensive. The headteacher, Nick Sorensen, who is a jazz enthusiast (and a fluent saxophonist to boot), recently organised a jazz evening which brilliantly recreated the spirit of the pre-war Spirituals to Swing concerts in Carnegie Hall, using all local musicians – even the one star name, pianist Jason Rebello, is a local resident.

There was another fine pianist on show, of whom I had never heard, with an even more unjazz-like name than Jason Rebello, one Keith Harrison-Broninski.

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## A deadly gamble, but we are right to strike at Milosevic

WAR IS never easy, and all the high technology in the world will never make it so. Nato's new military toughness in Yugoslavia constitutes a deadly gamble with many lives, and may become painful and unpopular. But it remains necessary, in spite of all the final reservations that accompany the fateful step of attacking a fellow sovereign state in Europe.

Our first instinct is to welcome military action against a regime that has systematically attacked the rights of the people of Kosovo. This century has witnessed too many betrayals of small and defenceless peoples in Europe, and it is to be hoped that the action in Kosovo marks an end to that sad and shameful record.

It is President Milosevic who has forced the predominantly Albanian population of that province into desperate resistance. His government has denied them legitimate cultural expression and legislative autonomy, discriminated against the Albanian language and most Kosovars' Muslim faith, and finally adopted the same techniques of "ethnic cleansing" that he mobilised in Bosnia. For years we forced our troops in the Balkans to scuffle around in armoured personnel carriers, dealing out charity rather than tackling the root cause of conflict: Serb aggression. Now that humiliation may be over.

But we must go further than emotional spasm. Nato's actions are not the end of the struggle with Milosevic. In fact, they herald a new level of conflict with this tough and cunning operator whose capacity to trick, delay and dissemble will not be ended by military action alone. On the contrary: military action raises the stakes, creating new situations for the Belgrade strongman to exploit, and forcing the Western allies to concentrate every step of the way. Only a strategy for the whole course of this new and more intense confrontation can hope to isolate and contain such initiatives.

There is a need for such clear thinking over every aspect of this new and dangerous conflagration. Having escalated the crisis, we must face the consequences, building strategies for dealing with the results of our actions.

Diplomacy must remain to the fore, for in this field Nato's position is far from secure. Russia and China oppose military action, a stance Serbia will attempt to take advantage of. Without unanimous international support or UN authorisation, Nato must not give the impression of go-it-alone warmongering. The diplomatic situation may get worse, as the conflict could spread to Macedonia, Albania, and beyond. The political and military groundwork must be laid to deal with that eventuality. That means extra troops if necessary, and security agreements with countries who share a border with Serbia.

But there are technical and operational problems on a



similar scale. Serbia is no Iraq. With well-equipped air defences and a trained, tested and committed army, she will be no military pushover. The lives of Nato personnel may be lost, perhaps in large numbers. Alliance troops are strung out across Bosnia and Macedonia, and will need protecting. For that there must be a plan, for ultimate extraction or deeper and more forceful involvement. Provision must be made for refugees streaming across the border into Macedonia and northern Greece. Once war is launched, there can be no half-measures.

There will be no quick or bloodless victory; in the Balkans, there never are any simple solutions. But Milosevic has torn up every agreement he has made in the last six months, and his ability to defy sense and diplomacy must now be brought to an end. Nato should stand firm for the stark principles that necessitate action. The credibility of the Western alliance, the Kosovar right to self-determination and democracy, and the security of Europe itself are at stake.

## Now Mr Straw must extradite this tyrant

THE LAW Lords' decision that General Pinochet cannot claim blanket "sovereign immunity" is a limited one, but still a great relief after all the rumours of splits and second thoughts. Hurdles still remain in the way of the General's final extradition to Spain. The Spanish judge now has to make the substantive case; Pinochet's lawyers will probably launch a judicial review of the referral to British courts. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, must finally agree to the extradition going ahead. But the judges' decision means that extradition is closer than ever.

Mindful of the earlier debacle over Lord Hoffman's connections with Amnesty International, the Law Lords have taken painstaking care over this decision. The inevitable result is that their ruling hardly constitutes a clarion call

for international law and for the culpability of dictators. The judges have taken the cautious, rather than the expansive, approach to the law. Perhaps understandably, they did not wish to drag the British courts further into political controversy. But their caution now lands responsibility right back in the Home Secretary's lap. Mr Straw should remember the principle at stake: no one is immune before the courts. The whole weight of international opinion and law are moving in this direction, most notably at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

If Mr Straw does find some pretext on which to release Pinochet, the present generation of tyrants - including Slobodan Milosevic - will rub their hands with glee, realising that Western governments do not have the strength of will to back up legal decisions with political action. That would undermine fragile hopes for an international order governed by law, rather than by the whims of despots. Yesterday the judges took one step towards justice. When called upon, the Home Secretary must complete the journey.

# It's because we're rich that we must impose peace for others

I DON'T know what they were doing the morning Neville Chamberlain declared war on Germany, but I bet they weren't watching the style editor of *OK!* magazine demonstrating how to make oneself look like Gwyneth Paltrow on Oscars night. My idle wish, yesterday, was that one of the passing BS2s would take a brief detour and bomb the studio from which that edition of *Vanessa* was being broadcast. A serious one was that more people in this country would understand what was about to happen on the other side of the continent.

Which was that our Government was about to join in an attack on a foreign sovereign nation, in order to impose upon it a settlement concerning a part of its own territory. And what had the Serbs done to us? Insult our intelligences, maybe, but what else? Had Serb bombs gone off in British cities, or Serb sailors made landfalls on Pitcairn or St Helena? Had Serbia invaded a country to which we are committed by an agreement for mutual defence?

And what about the price? At some point in the next few days - though none will it to be so - a Nato missile or bomb, supposedly heading for a Serb command centre or tank park, will be dumb enough to drop through the roof of an ordinary family, and kill Serbian children. And it may be the pilot son or (occasionally, these days) soldier daughter of the woman sitting next to you on the bus who dies or is mutilated because of what we asked him or her to do.


How impressed are we by those

who become our allies? The KLA Black Tigers, with their bandanas, macho swagger and great big, powerful weapons, look as though they too have been made over, in this case by the style advisor of *Massacres Monthly*. How optimistic are we about the fate of the Serbs left behind when Kosovo goes its own way or what will happen between the Demaci and Rugova factions of the Albanian majority when power is up for grabs? Godalming this is not.

For all that, I have no doubt whatsoever that the intervention is right. It is right for humanitarian reasons and for political reasons. The only way in which Serbia can hold on to a province in which nine out of 10 people reject their sovereignty is by further massive repression and by ethnic cleansing on a scale that will make Bosnia look like a parish council tin.

My main worry about this action would be whether Nato should not soon follow air strikes with a ground invasion. Sure, it would have been better to have got an agreement in which the Serbs conceded autonomy, and the means to police it internationally, but Mr Milosevic would not sign it.

I have heard the usual arguments - as over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait - that some other way might be found to get Belgrade to back down. But these, as ever, turn on the notion that doing nothing is always preferable to taking military action. I am not a pacifist, and I don't believe it. So I think we will end up with what the author Timothy Garton Ash has described as



**DAVID AARONOVITCH**  
*The problem that many parts of the world face today is not too much policing, but too little*

a Western protectorate in Kosovo, not unlike the current one in Bosnia.

Where next? One reason why Britain's contribution to the Kosovo air armada is so limited is that we are already heavily committed elsewhere, not least in the Gulf. Nor are our current commitments the only ones we might incur. What do readers think we should do if we saw another Rwanda developing? I hope that, along with others, we would intervene even though we have no direct interest at all in the region. And surely, to do that, we will have to possess armed forces capable of such intervention.

This isn't what a lot of us expected when the Berlin Wall came down. True, some terrible old pessimists and

retired generals had warned that the beaill that had been frozen in the permafrost of the Cold War would soon become active again. But most of us expected a nice, fat, peace dividend. We would beat our swords into stocks and shares - or into improved public transport, at any rate. Then we could relax, wealthier and safer than ever before.

And there has been another objection to assuming the global truce and wandering round the world to see if the shops are all locked up. The legacy of imperialism has made many good people immensely suspicious of foreign adventures, especially in the Third World. It was we Brits who went hunting Aborigines in Tasmania - machine-gunning Tibetans near Lhasa with St Francis Younghusband (80 years before the Chinese ever got there) and sending gunboats up rivers. And it was our pals, the Americans, whose battle with the Russians saw them acting in armed cohorts with every corrupt, medal-bedecked junta from Saigon to Santiago.

I understand this feeling, but it's time we got beyond it. The problem that many parts of the world face today is not too much policing, but too little. When the inhabitants of Freetown fitted the same representative of Britain who was so criticised over the Sandline affair, there was an important message there for us. Our former colony has fallen into a barbarian that is almost beyond description. Given a choice, do we really think that the suffering civilians of Sierra Leone would

object to a military presence by the British? My sister-in-law is from Sierra Leone, and she does not rail much against imperialism.

There are other Sierra Leones. Each week seems to bring a crop of photographs of severed heads and terrorised kids from some part of the world. Do we observe these things simply so that we might feel a horrible *schadenfreude*? Or so that we might do something about them?

As to why us - well, if not us, who? The Chinese? The Vietnamese? Tintin and Captain Haddock? We, and our European and our American friends, are richer, healthier and safer than ever before. We also live by rules that - on the whole - most peoples of the world would like also to enjoy.


Usually, if our soldiers kill civilians they are subject to discipline and trial, and that is a whole lot more than can be said for the armed forces of many other countries.

Not a little of our great wealth and security has been bought at the expense of peoples elsewhere. Some of our obligations to them can be met through targeted aid, some by debt reduction, some by refusing to profit from arms sales. But the biggest test is whether you'll risk the lives of your soldiers. So by all means let's tax the rich, and then let's spend more money on the armed forces. Otherwise our much-wanted peace dividend will be paid for with the blood of Africans and Albanians - almost all of whom want that peace as much as we do, but do not possess the means to secure it.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"I am overwhelmed with joy. I believe in justice now."  
Carol Styles,  
Chilean refugee, on the Law Lords' decision that General Pinochet can be extradited to Spain

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
"Think strategically, act primitively."  
René Clair,  
French poet and film-maker

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THE EFFORTS of the international community have resulted in this situation, following demonstrations of flexibility that appeared as weakness. If unprovoked bombardments in pos-war Europe should occur, the crisis could lead us into uncharted waters. But the continuation of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo without a Western response would have revived ghosts of the appeasement of Hitler in 1938, the prelude to European war. The

question remains whether to accompany bombing, whose effects are inevitably limited, with land troops to prevent reprisals against the Kosovars. Would there be the political will for such a risky escalation of hostilities?

*El Mundo, Spain*

MILOSEVIC'S MODUS operandi is not so different from that of Saddam Hussein. Both employ stalling tactics and are skilled at "brinkmanship",

pushing the crisis to the brink and then making it seem as if they are backing down. In both cases it is the people who suffer. Innocent masses of people pay the price rather than the ambitious, irrational leaders.

*Militant, Turkey*

WHAT INTERESTS of the US are at risk in Kosovo? What is the goal of military action in

Kosovo? What do we do when we reach the goal? In the Second World War, the goal was extremely clear: the unconditional surrender of the Nazis and the Japanese. If the United States government cannot articulate the reasons its citizens will be asked to sacrifice, then we have no business being there.

*Huron Daily Tribune, US*

NATO HAS taken one of the most serious decisions of its existence. It has decided for the first time to attack a sovereign country, without a specific mandate from the UN Security Council. The Serbian offensive carried out over the past few days in Kosovo and the new wave of refugees it has created have finally persuaded the allies to act. Faced with Belgrade's obstinate determination to accept the Paris agreement, Nato could no longer defer its action.

*Le Soir, Belgium*

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
*International reaction to Nato's decision to proceed with air strikes on Serbia*



## PANDORA

IT'S MORNING – and over at London's *Evening Standard* it's time to select some snaps to brighten up the first edition which the huntin', shootin', fishin' editor Max Hastings hopes will acquish Associated's impertinent-in-house rival, *Metro*. The *Standard* picture editor David Ofield opines that "Benetton's back in fashion". The editor's face brightens. "Really? That's interesting," Hastings says. "Put a top writer on that." Conversation continues about the garment-maker, but suddenly the country-lovin' Hastings' face falls. "Benetton? Benetton?? What's Benetton??? I thought you said 'venison'."

**CATCH A Falling Star Dept:** The citizenry of Buckinghamshire's Chalfont St Giles are not overawed by celebrity. A school auction there this week raffled off Gary Lineker's football (£20) and Noel Edmonds's jumper (£20) – but an evening's babysitting by the local headteacher, Kim Robinson, fetched £100.

**HE'S FIT. He's fat.** And he's in trouble with the tax man. Luciano Pavarotti is appealing against a £4m tax demand from the Italian authorities, claiming he was domiciled in Monte Carlo from 1989 to 1991. Signor Esattore-delle-tasse doesn't see it that way because the tenor's flat in the principality is "relatively modest". Given that tax avoidance in Italy is a national sport, this one hasn't started until the fat guy sings.

**KOSOVO? NORTHERN Ireland?** There are weightier matters on the minds of the Tory A-team. "The only possible outcome," says William Hague, "of inclusion of the EU flag on numberplates is European propaganda at the expense of road safety." Excuse me? Will the side of a little blue flag drive Eurosceptics into the red mist of road-rage? Coming Soon: Little Willie takes a tough stand on carpet tiles.

**FASCINATING FACT:** Robbie Williams (pictured) was once the shrimp-cocktail-eating champion for Whitley Bay. And he's currently "on a diet of baltis and kebabs", he will tell the Carlton Food Network this Friday.

**SUBTILES FOR the Slangage-Impaired.** Today, diplomacy. What diplomats say is followed by Pandora's take on what they mean. "All

options are still on the table": the decision-makers involved are unwilling (or unable) to make a decision. "Degrade": bomb repeatedly. "Collateral damage": smart weapons, dumb operators. "Emerging markets": poor countries. "Frank exchange": shouting and table-banging. "Instability": anything perceived as a threat to First World interests. "Intervention force in a hostile environment": get the body-bags ready. "Mercurial": "colourful" or "controversial": beyond our control and probably bonkers. "Multilateral": = US + UK. "We're not ruling anything out": we don't know what to do, and even if we did we wouldn't tell you, because we don't want to telegraph our moves to the other mob.

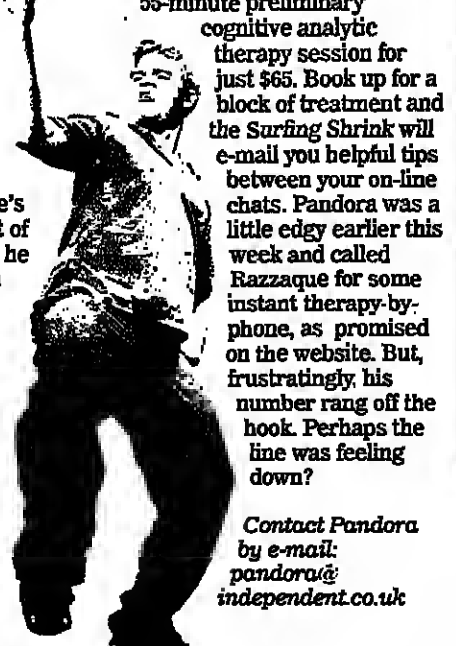
**WHERE WILL you be on 31 December 1999?** Those old Labour stalwarts Bob Marshall-Andrews and Brian Sedgmore will be holed up together inside a nuclear bunker. The Medway MP Marshall-Andrews lives in the converted shelter in Kent; Sedgmore says the duo's millennial hide-out is motivated by a desire to be "as far away from the Dome as possible. It was this," he explains, "or Australia."

**THE SOMETIME supermodel and Rod Stewart spouse Rachel Hunter** was spotted in "tacky" \$12 Melody Nails on Los Angeles' Sunset Plaza this week. "It's the cheapest manicure in town, and I should know," says Pandora's impecunious West Coast spy. "It looks as if money's pretty tight for her." Say it ain't so, Rod.

**STRESSED? PRESSURED?** Too monged even to leave your desk and stagger off to the nearest therapist? Fear not now the therapist will come to you. Or, more precisely, to your computer screen. The enterprising Birmingham shrink Dr Russell Razaque's CyberAnalysis Clinic offers a 58-minute preliminary

cognitive analytic therapy session for just \$65. Book up for a block of treatment and the Surfing Shrink will e-mail you helpful tips between your on-line chats. Pandora was a little edgy earlier this week and called Razaque for some instant therapy-by-phone, as promised on the website. But, frustratingly, his number rang off the hook. Perhaps the line was feeling down?

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)



## The Raj lives on in our restaurants



**YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN**  
*The finest Indian food is still not given such adoration as even bad French or Italian food*

Daily Telegraph describes curry as the national food of Britain, and British football fans sing voodoo cheer-oh songs. We came, we saw, we cooked – and you surrendered. Or so it would appear.

But (and here comes the hot food) all is not what it seems. What we have here is the Raj again, carrying with it lust without love, creating a

potent mixture of contempt and appropriation, of race and class. And it needs to be deconstructed if it is to be properly understood.

On the whole, the most finely crafted Indian food is still not given the adoration automatically awarded to even bad, malevolent French and Italian food.

One reason is that, like Chinese, Thai, and other "Third World" cooking, Indian food is not European. Secondly, it is commonplace, too much a food of the people to be taken seriously by elitists who think they have eaten well only if their pockets have been emptied. They have been encouraged to believe this by our precious food critics who stride the metropolis with self-importance.

Now, the last time I wrote about this subject, foodies such as Fay Maschler and Drew Smith whipped themselves into such outrage that I thought I would get my deportation orders and be put on a boat to Bombay. These people have tender, sensitive skin. They can dole out merciless judgements but must not be touched themselves.

But I ask again. Why have food

critics perpetuated such an iniquitous hierarchy of foods, which almost always places Indian food on the lower rungs however good it is?

And if you think I'm whinging, read what that usually snobbish food critic A.A. Gill writes of Vineet Bhatia, an Indian restaurant in Hamersmith: "It's shameful to point out, but if Bhatia cooked in the French or Italian vernacular, or came from New York, he would be hailed as a superstar. His recipes would be published in glossy magazines, his beautiful home explored in *Hello!* magazine." Just so, just so.

And that is not all. Our humiliation carries on. Those who break through this wall of prejudice and seek to claim credence and status are also almost all white. Pat Chapman, a cheerful, helpful chap who runs the Curry Club of Britain, is now the proclaimed "king" of curries. None of our top-selling recipe books are by British Asians. Publishers would not dream of investing in writers such as the inimitable food writer Mridula Baljekar in the way they do for Delia Smith.

The only exception is Madhur Jafrey, who is an Indian living in the United States. None of the newspaper chefs are Asian. And, worst of all, according to the Glasgow Media Group, the highly popular and proliferating television cookery programmes totally exclude Asian chefs. They don't feature any of the other non-white groups, either give or take an Ainsley Harriot.

Week in and week out you get Nigel and Nigella, Antonio and Antony, Rick and Robert et al indulging in loving cook-ins, neglecting to ask in (even as guest chefs) any Asian chef, and appropriating our recipes and presenting them to the world as if they had sprouted in their own enthusiastic little hearts.

I wouldn't mind if our top chefs from restaurants such as Café L'Espresso, The Star of India, Soho Spice and Southall's Gita Lahori were given the chance to cook and blab about how to boil the perfect egg and make a hearty custard.

But that, as the Glasgow study says is "unimaginable". If this isn't the new colonialism, then I don't know what is.

## Here's a unique chance to create a Europe that works



**HAMISH MCRAE**  
*Were you designing the European Commission now, you would make something very different*

way it has pursued that goal. The European economy is vastly more efficient as a result of its work, and you could certainly argue that the single currency will extract further gains from economies of scale, as prices and costs become more directly comparable across Europe and greater efficiency follows.

But that is the position as of now. The nature of the world economy has moved on, and while there may well be further gains in efficiency to be made, the growth points of the world economy are no longer in manufactured goods but rather in services. What are Europe's strengths and weaknesses in this new world?

The most remarkable thing about Europe's economy is its diversity. Different regions are good at quite different things. There is a common theme in luxury goods: the world's best luxury products, from Paris and Milan fashions to German cars to Scotch whisky, are made in Europe.

But that apart, the variety is more notable than the similarities. While Europe as a whole has a strong record in the medium and upper-medium technologies, it is not so strong at the very top end of

the scale. Nor is it strong in the new computer-related technologies – with the exception of Scandinavia, which dominates global mobile communications, and the partial exception of the UK which does well in some software, as well as in pharmaceuticals.

From a European perspective one of the disturbing lessons of the 1990s is that many of the new information technologies have been developed in the US, and not in Europe. Indeed the gap between Europe and North America, which had been narrowing until about 1990, has started to widen again.

Why is this? I don't think it is possible at the moment to give more than an intuitive answer, but when the economic history of the Nineties comes to be written, I suspect that one key conclusion will be that Europe had, by 1990, extracted most of the gains that could be made from closer economic integration – not all, but most.

Europe was no longer big enough; it was no longer sufficient to be strong in one of the three time zones. To move forward meant thinking not Continental but global. Companies which did that, such as the Finnish group Nokia, could dominate the world market for their products. Companies which continued to think of Europe as their main market stagnated.

Britain is in the interesting position of being the least European and most American of the EU economies. Having pulled itself back from catastrophe in the Seventies, it still has a legacy of weakness in the older industries. That legacy continues to cast a shadow over many parts of the country. But the UK has been good at creating new industries – not as good as the US, but better than most European competitors – with around 40 per cent of the European venture capital market.

Now ask the central question.



The European Commission's new President, Mr Prodi FT

What sort of Commission does Europe need to help it to become more competitive vis-à-vis the rest of the world over the next generation, given that most of the power will remain for the time being with the national governments, and given that most of the gains from economies of scale have been achieved?

I have a suggestion. It is that the Commission should start to think of itself much more as a super development agency, charged with continuing the European countries' economic success story in the very different economic conditions of the new century.

This is a task which does not particularly need big money but rather big brains. It requires clever people to identify blockages in the path of further development and then cajole governments into clearing them, to identify growth areas in the world economy and lift Europe's game.

There are a host of practical measures on which Europe compares badly with the US. Why are Europe so bad at creating private sector jobs? Why are new business start-ups so low, and why are they lower in some countries than others? Most important of all, how can Europe turn its cultural diversity from a potential weakness into a practical strength?

This is a wholly new way of thinking of the role of government, but one more tuned to the next century. Instead of exerting power by taxing and spending, governments all over the world are having to operate by a much more subtle mixture of forces: being an effective catalyst for change, being an efficient regulator, being a good presenter of policies. Potentially Mr Prodi has a much more interesting job than poor old Mr Santer. New century equals new politics and new Commission?

## Shakespeare's theatre of war



**PODIUM**  
**NICK DE SOMOGYI**  
*From a speech by the Shakespeare scholar delivered at the Globe Theatre, London*

THE TITLE of this talk is "Alarums and Excursions" but when my computer saved it as "A & E" this morning, it struck me that the title "Accidents and Emergencies" might serve equally well to illustrate the series of Elizabethan anecdotes and extracts I want to talk about tonight. Much of this draws from my book, *Shakespeare's Theatre of War*.

Of course, "The first casualty when war comes is truth", as the American senator, Hiram Johnson, put it in 1917. His remark perhaps complicates and qualifies Walt Whitman's stark view of the American Civil War that "the real war will never get into the books". The books, perhaps, but the stage?

In the 16th century – a culture to a large extent determined by the theatrical pageantry of power – the technologies of war and the resources of fiction often overlapped on the stage.

What war was this? Surely Elizabeth the First's was a golden age presided over by the Virgin Queen, the goddess of justice and virtue and peace? Well, in fact, between 1585 (when she first committed English troops to the Low Countries) and 1604 (when her successor King James negotiated peace at the Somerset House conference) Elizabeth reluctantly waged against Philip the Second of Spain what has recently been acknowledged as "one of the longest [wars] in English history". I say "acknowledged" because most of us – indeed most Shakespearean scholars

– still tend to remain disproportionately impressed by Tudor propaganda, to the effect that England fought just one battle in Shakespeare's lifetime, a battle that was won at sea. Between 1585 and 1604 one hundred thousand Englishmen were conscripted to fight abroad.

One afternoon, on 16 November 1587, a young lawyer called Philip Gawdy attended a play in a London theatre.

But it was not the brilliance of the production that made him describe it in a letter to his father, but perhaps its striking realism (I should explain that a "caliver" was an Elizabethan firearm, a sort of light musket: "My Lord Admiral, his men-and-players [writes Gawdy] having a device in their play to the one of their fellows to a post and so to shoot him to death, having borrowed their calivers, one of the players' hands swerved, his piece being charged with bullet, missed the fellow he aimed at, and killed a child, and a woman-great-with-child forthwith, and hurt another man very sore.

"How they will answer it I do not study, unless their profession were better; but in Christianity I am very sorry for the chance; but God his judgments are not to be searched nor enquired of at men's hands. And yet I find by this an old proverb verified: there never comes more hurt than by fooling."

"The players... having borrowed their calivers..." It's interesting how casually Gawdy slips in that phrase; the practice of actors borrowing a real weapon for a fictional

"device" does not appear to have been unusual – indeed, more than one of these expensive weapons was apparently available.

In fact this sudden explosion of a real bullet from a theatrical prop was an accident waiting to happen. For the real Philip Henslowe was, among other things, a churchwarden, and as such would have counted among his duties the maintenance of the armories that church halls had become (the church hall used for drill in *Dad's Army* accurately represents the endurance of this tradition into our own century).

Much of the military vocabulary we now use – ambush, alarm, squadron, infantry, trench – formed a linguistic invasion altogether more successful than any Spanish Armada's. Molotov cocktail, Jeep, bazooka, the Blitz, Migs and Scuds have all passed into 20th-century English for the same reasons as "musketeers", "battery", "artillery" and "bank" did in the 16th century.

I just want to say: that is all; thank you very much for your attention and fall out.

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The Pinochet Ruling: Chile's leading author and one of Britain's top barristers comment on yesterday's judgment

# Bad news for torturers

THE REAL beneficiary of the Law Lords' ruling on General Pinochet is the Home Secretary, whose decision whether to extradite him to Spain for crimes committed between 1988 and 1990 is now straightforward and non-political. Pinochet is charged with ordering, on 24 June 1989, the torture by electric shock of a 17-year-old girl, Marcos Quezada Yanez, who died as a result. Just as Spain will extradite Kenneth Noye over a road-rage killing, so Britain must send these for trial a man who is accused of a more cold-blooded barbarity.

What is clear from yesterday's long and complex judgments is that this decision – by six opinions to one – confirms the historic achievement of the first House of Lords in ruling that the armour of sovereign immunity, which has hitherto protected tyrants and torturers, has an Achilles' heel. It was located, in Pinochet's case, in the allegation that he instigated widespread and systematic torture, "a crime against humanity" which Britain, Spain and Chile had bound themselves by Convention to punish wherever it occurred. It was a crime of such unforgivable moral blackness that all the respect and dignity owed to Chile as an independent sovereign state could not be permitted to shield its former head from the consequences of his actions.

That said, the Law Lords went on to consider a special extradition point that had not been taken at the previous hearing, although it would



GEOFFREY ROBERTSON

The ruling should be followed up by making an immediate application for Idi Amin's extradition

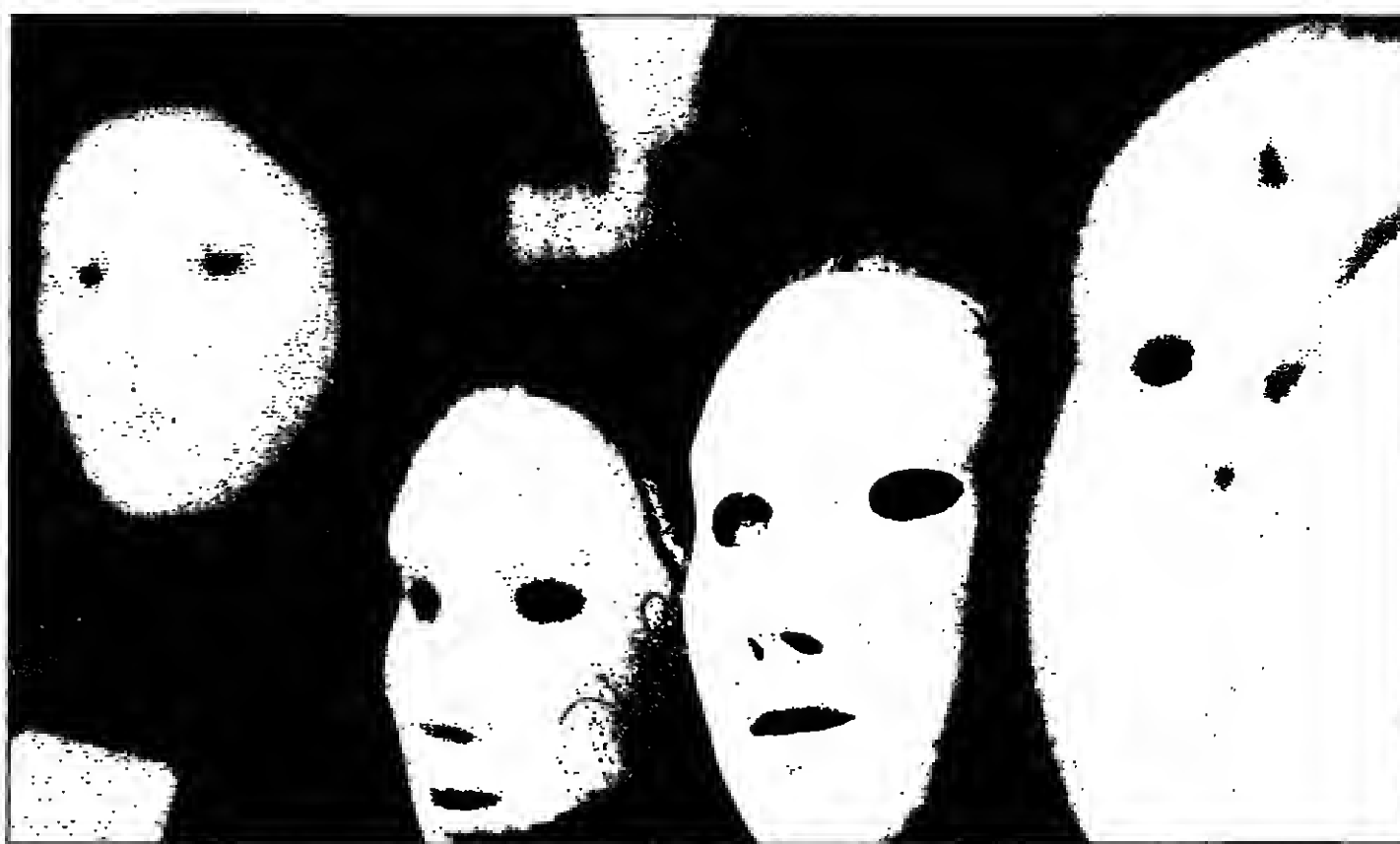
undoubtedly have been raised in the course of the extradition proceedings (by taking it at this stage, the judges have in fact saved further delay). Most of them found that the "double criminality" rule limited extradition crimes to those taking place after 1988. No doubt Jack Straw will be pressed with the argument that "only" three cases of torture are alleged in this later period, but he should carefully read page 59 of Lord Hope's key speech. This explains that the true significance of these particular acts was to show that even in the last years of his dictatorship "he was a party to the use of torture as a systematic attack on all those who opposed or might oppose his government". On this basis,

Pinochet's mind was as guilty in 1988 as it had been in 1973 – more so, in fact, because by that later stage he had no armed opposition.

There will be disappointment among torture victims that Pinochet cannot, as a result of an obscure extradition rule, be put on trial for the murders and tortures he ordered during, and for years after, his overthrow of democracy in 1973. This is regrettable, but has one great merit: it pulls the rug entirely from under Pinochet's supporters. They have, in the last few months, created a cottage propaganda industry claiming that the General had to kill Chileans in order to save them from Cuba-style communism – that they were better dead (or destroyed by torture) than red.

This argument may be a perversion of history, but on any view it cannot apply to torture and murder in 1988, 15 years after Salvador Allende's death. There may be only three charges left in the Spanish prosecution, but they allege such a degree of indefensible wickedness – a dictator's determination to abuse his unthreatened power – that the case for extradition is overwhelming.

What has become crystal clear in recent months is that Pinochet will never stand trial in Chile. There have been cases brought against him by relatives of those who disappeared under his orders, all consolidated before Judge Juan Guzmán of the Santiago Appeals Court, who recently explained, "I am



Anti-Pinochet demonstrators represent the 'disappeared' of Chile at a rally in London

Kieran Doherty

prevented from issuing any kind of arrest warrant", because of the amnesty Pinochet bestowed on himself in 1978 and because he will always enjoy immunity as "Senator for life". Even if these immunities were in some way ended, the issue of any warrant against the General would automatically remove his case to a military court, where his acquittal would be a foregone conclusion.

The other false claim his supporters make is that Chile has reached a South Africa-style "national reconciliation". It did have a truth commission, chaired by Senator Rettig, which reported in 1992 on the extent of the killings and of torture, but which was prohibited

from "naming names" and identifying those responsible. Bishop Tutu's Commission was altogether different, offering "plea bargain" immunity only to those who were prepared to confess the full truth apologetically and in public, and to give evidence for the prosecution in future criminal trials.

Pinochet has never apologised, although he has joked that the "disappearances" saved the cost of coffins. He remains out of the country, fighting extradition and then a trial in Spain, the Chilean government may have the courage to set up a proper truth commission to unmask the pre-1988 crimes of Pinochet and his executioners.

The Pinochet case marks a signal advance in international human rights law. The breach in "sovereign immunity" has been hailed by Mary Robinson, Richard Goldstone and other leading jurists, and it must not be tarnished by allowing Pinochet to return to a hero's welcome from his followers in Chile. In fact, the ruling should be followed up by making an immediate application for Idi Amin's extradition from Saudi Arabia. His position as a former head of state would not make him immune from prosecution at the Old Bailey for the murders of British citizens during his rule in Uganda.

There will, inevitably, be disappointment that Pinochet cannot be prosecuted in Spain for the bulk of his crimes, but this should be tempered by the advances the case has made in human rights law. Britain can take some credit, too, for the fact that its courts have bent over backwards to be fair to this man, compared with the utter lack of fairness he meted out to his victims who were denied any form of legal process.

At least, there is retribution for just one family, that of Marcos Quezada Yanez, some justice will have been done.

Geoffrey Robertson QC is author of *The Justice Game*, published in paperback this month by Vintage

# I was blessed to be here on this happy day

IT IS a great day for humanity, a great, final gift to conclude this terrible and murderous century.

Fate blessed me by letting me arrive in London yesterday, just in time to stand outside the House of Lords to hear the good news that Augusto Pinochet Ugarte does not enjoy immunity for having been head of state when he ordered people to be killed and tortured. I was able to hear from the mouths of the English judges that the Chilean dictator could not hide behind the spurious mantle of sovereignty to escape justice. I know a rocky road lies ahead, and that the process promises to last for years, embroiled in appeals and pressures, but our impossible dream in all these years – that the General would have to sit in the same place as his victims – appears ever nearer.

I recognise that this process creates a dilemma, at least for

Chileans. The fact that Pinochet will be judged far from his home absolves Chileans from having to do so themselves. The same distance that has enabled him to be imprisoned may serve as a cushion and a screen to prevent us confronting our past.

If Pinochet is imprisoned today in England and perhaps one day in Spain, the General has us Chileans imprisoned in turn, arguing *ad infinitum* over his image.

What I need to know more than Pinochet's future is Chile's future: how can we go beyond his figure, beyond his legacy? What will happen, now that his trial in Europe will go ahead?

There are so many factors and so many actors that it would be stupid and foolhardy to prophesy the future. Will the armed forces react, as they have threatened, with some action that expresses their "state of

tension", pressuring the government even more than they are already doing? Will the right wing now see the chance to rid themselves of the burden of the dictator that brands them as supporters of a man who has crushed human rights and is the parish of the planet? And, the crucial question: how will the legal proceedings affect the forthcoming presidential elections?

The challenge that faces us can be summed up in a scene I witnessed a few months ago, on my last visit to Chile. It was one of those typical scenes of Chilean daily life that contain more insights than all the political analyses.

We had gone out, Angelica and I, to walk through downtown Santiago. Suddenly I heard a roll of drums and saw in the distance red flags that fluttered in the warm summer breeze of the Paseo Ahumada. I



ARIEL DORFMAN

A third of the country has ruled Chile for decades but has found it doesn't rule abroad

thought it must be another march to demand that the General be extradited to Spain. But it was about 100 university students

dressed like medieval fools, their faces painted with many colours, some advancing on stilts, others jumping about in a happy caravan that daringly invited the public to a theatre festival. It was a carnival celebration of arts, full of tricks and good humour.

However, hardly had this band of youngsters passed by than another group appeared, marching slowly and solemnly on the same street: the mothers and sisters and wives of the "disappeared", the association of relatives of those murdered for politics, members of a movement against torture. Here were the women who – for more than 25 years – had fed the fire of memory, refusing to forget their loved ones who had succumbed in some dark and sordid cellar in this very city. They had been waiting for this day when the man who had scorned them could no longer ignore them, when this man

had to take responsibility for his violations of human rights.

While I watched these mothers of the Chilean dead pass by, I heard a female voice: "Shitty communists! Liars! We should have killed all of you." I turned and saw a slender woman, fashionably dressed, elegant, fifty-ish. Reactionary, bitter, she spat the words as if to herself, but making sure that everyone heard her clearly.

Watching this woman, who looked with fury at the same march that filled me with so much emotion, seeing her rigid body, her stony inability to understand another's pain, I felt a return to the worst moments – not of the dictatorship, but of the Fascist protests against the Allende government, and I felt my stomach knot with an irrational fear.

I knew to what this hatred could lead; I knew what happens when a woman like her rises up with all the

power in her hands and does what she likes and thinks that no one will ever ask her to account for herself. She spoke those words so that people like me would never forget who had won that war.

And I learnt something else on that street corner: General Pinochet is the anchor of the identity of that woman and she wasn't going to let anything in the world bring him to justice. This woman represents a third of the country. A third that has ruled for decades, perhaps centuries in Chile, but has discovered that it doesn't rule abroad. The future of the country cannot be built with this woman. But we cannot imagine and form the future without her. Can we advance beyond Pinochet?

The author will be reading from his latest novel, *The Nanny and the Iceberg*, in London this week as part of the Word festival

# A singular black female

IN THIS exhilarating collection of essays, written over 20 years, the black American feminist writer, critic and academic, bell hooks examines the hows, whys and whos of writing. She delves into the ways that class, race and gender affect writing, reading and publication. She describes the link between her writing and her spiritual practice, and tackles the difficulty of reconciling the public nature of intellectual work, inside and outside the university system, with "that space of writing that is always intimate, private, solitary". She celebrates the women writers whose work has touched her life. And she confronts the critics who have accused her of writing too much (this is her 17th book), on too broad a range of subjects.

One of hooks's bugbears is the way publishers and reviewers tend to pigeonhole writers by one aspect of their identity. She's against lazy definitions, not against the attempt to define people. Asserting the contributions that race, class, gender, politics, sexuality and so on make to an author's work, she writes that "I am a writer who is black and female. These aspects of my identity strengthen my creative gifts... By fully embracing all the markers that situate and locate me, I know who I am."

One reason why hooks's identity-markers strengthen her gifts is that few non-fiction



## THURSDAY BOOK

REMEMBERED RAPTURE:  
THE WRITER AT WORK

BY BELL HOOKS, THE WOMEN'S PRESS, £5.99

authors have grown from the same earth. Her work is different, refreshing, and relevant. She challenges the publishing industry's assumption that writing by white women is of general interest, whereas work by black women will sell only to black women.

She also highlights why the craft and act of writing is so important to her. If you grow up surrounded by intelligent people who have not had the chance to attain literacy, reading and writing skills assume the highest value. "They never let me forget that I was blessed... To read and write was to partake of a sacrament."

This explains, in part, why she champions confessional writing: a genre devalued both by the chat-show epidemic, which reduces confession to a symbiotic relationship between exhibitionism and prurience, and by the New Ageism that proclaims all "therapeutic" writing good, irrespective of how well it is crafted. In the essay "telling all: the politics of confession", she crit-

icises Kathryn Harrison's tale of father-adult daughter incest, *The Kiss*, for its narcissism and racial undertones. She also points out that, had Harrison been more influenced by feminism, "her dangerous liaison might never have taken place". For hooks, well-written confessional writing requires rigorous honesty and technical adeptness. The writer must understand "the critical difference between confession as an act of displacement and confession as the beginning stage in a process of self-transformation".

Confessional writing should evolve and evoke its author's identity as writer and human being. It should also inform. In "from public to private: writing bone black" (Bone Black being hooks's dreamlike, painful and unsensational memoir of a misfit black girlhood), she describes how she started that book as "a psychoanalytic effort to understand the past", but published it to address "the paucity of information about black girlhood".

Elsewhere, hooks details her Christian upbringing, her studies of Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism – and her ambitious, rational and distinctly unfashionable aim of integrating her spiritual with her intellectual life. She also explains her pen name. Bell Hooks was her great-grandmother, and she took her name to "serve as a constant reminder that I was not my ideas, that they did not represent the voice of a fixed identity". It sounds lofty, out of context, but is a liberating and direct connection to the heritage of which hooks is proud, but not uncritical.

On the other hand, it seems weird to find someone who writes so much and so effectively in the first person, and who incorporates a wealth of autobiographical material in her work, using a pseudonym. But, if I am not my ideas, then I guess it follows that I am also not my story. Accessible, lucid and down-to-earth – even when dealing with spiritual practice – these essays breathe a vivifying intelligence, and a willingness to engage inclusively with readers and writing. The essays on Toni Morrison, Ann Petry,



Nobel laureate Toni Morrison

Zora Neale Hurston, Lorraine Hansberry, Toni Cade Bambara and Emily Dickinson are celebratory but never hagiographic; those on the politics of writing and publication astute, worldly-wise, and full of critical observations that strip bare covert intellectual hypocrisy, racism and sexism. Criticisms? A repetitiveness which hooks acknowledges, and claims to be inevitable. And it would have been helpful to know the date of each piece, so as to trace over time the development of her thoughts. Overall, however, this is a fabulous collection.

LISA GEE

## THURSDAY POEM

A BIRMINGHAM YANK  
BY JOHN GOODYBY

"August 1914; forget the rest –  
for the first time the chassis moves past  
the workman. Soon, they re-invent  
the wheel as one hundred separate tasks,

Right then we saw flash an Iron Cross  
with Oak Leaves, First Class,  
from Herr Hitler (first name "Heil")  
and knew he could buy and sell

split Spic from Swede, Kraut from Kike.  
Basic wage \$5 a day,  
three shifts, no breaks. It's Taylor,  
PPS and the Pinkertons. Drink!"

the pub, the station, the whole village  
of Ballinascearty. We drank all day  
to that Birmingham Yank; any  
colour he liked as long as it was black.

From John Goodyby's collection *A Birmingham Yank*, published at £6.95 by Arc Publications at Nanholme Mill, Shaw Wood Road, Todmorden, Lancs OL14 6DA

## Kosova children appeal to Independent readers

Kosovar children refugees in Albania face cold, hunger and disease as winter deepens. Many are in deep shock, having witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, has few resources to support the massive influx of refugees.



### Your action will help children who have lost everything

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to set up an emergency centre in Shkoder, northern Albania, to help 2500 refugees. Our centre will provide basic necessities and schooling to give security to the confused and frightened refugee children living in Shkoder. These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever.

Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a normal life.

£30 could buy emergency medicine and food supplements for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KB359, 644 Queen Street, London, EC6B 4AR.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children this winter. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below

I enclose £30 (my choice £) to save Kosovar children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust please). Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card:

Card no. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Tanya Barron, (110A), Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KB359, 644 Queen Street, London, EC6B 4AR.

Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW – your gift will give hope



# Professor Donald McKenzie

DONALD MCKENZIE, one of the most stimulating and influential of university teachers of his generation, was as much at home in his adopted England as his native New Zealand.

He was born in Timaru, a small town about a hundred miles south of Christchurch, in South Island. The family's means were modest. In due course, they moved to Palmerston North, in North Island, and then to Wellington. By chance, at the age of about 14, he read *King Lear*. He was profoundly affected. To hear him read passages from that play even near the end of his life, and to witness his dramatic and interpretative energies, was to begin to understand how much English drama meant to him.

But school came to an end when Don was 16, and he joined the Post Office as an apprentice, assigned to the Public Relations Department. There he struck up a friendship with the artist Don Peebles, who showed him how to understand art, and introduced him to a wider appreciation of the theatre. The Post Office encouraged him to enroll part-time in what was then still Victoria University College, to read English. The Wellington Shakespeare Society fostered his growing love of theatre, and here he met his first wife. He thought of a career in journalism and (this was the era of McCarthyism in America) came under some suspicion for his interest in Russian.

After taking his MA, he was appointed by Ian Gordon to a junior post in the English Department. A year later, he won a Leverhulme scholarship to come to Cambridge as a research student, with wife and small son. These were lonely days, and he recalled with especial affection the care given to him by Bruce Dickinson at Corpus Christi College and by Muriel Bradbrook in the English Faculty. His subject was the working conditions of printers' compositors during a period that would comfortably contain Shakespeare's adult life. However, this proved disappointing, and when after some months his supervisor Philip Gaskell drew attention to the virtually unused archives of the Cambridge University Press from the 1690s and early 18th century, he seized on them with gratitude.

It remained a source of wonder to him that the English Faculty condoned a thesis so much of which was economic history. Money from New Zealand was only sufficient for three years in all, and so he completed his newly framed PhD thesis in the remaining two.

It was no frugal and hasty apology. With its wealth of documentation and informed attention to the

relationship between the finished books and the records of their production, he brought the printing house to life, disproved many old theories and assumptions about why books look as they do, and laid the foundation for much of the rest of his career. The resulting two volumes, *The Cambridge University Press 1696-1712: a bibliographical study*, published in 1966, remain the *locus classicus* on the daily running of an early printing house.

He returned to New Zealand, making use of the slow sea voyage to work away at his typewriter. Appointed to a more senior post at Victoria, where in 1969 he became Professor of English Language and Literature, for the next several years he moved between New Zealand and England, longing to be amongst the archives and libraries of England, but once there always

'Above all, he threw himself into teaching, with a vigour and intensity that earned him generations of grateful students. Whether in class, in an unscripted lecture, or on a more formal occasion, his energies and ability to hold an audience became legendary: one person describes his "hurting" his lectures at his hearers. By the time he was in his fifties, his mane of hair had turned white, adding further to a sense of occasion.

Nor did his care of students end there. The innumerable demands for references continued long after his retirement, and he wrote scrupulously, with meticulous reflection on the nuances of individuals' strengths. At heart, recalling his youth, he remained often uncertain of himself, and it required a conscious effort not to be wounded by criticism that he believed mistaken.

sider (in England) he would turn a room, and be proved right.

Not surprisingly, international honours mounted up: a corresponding fellowship of the British Academy in 1980, the Gold Medal of the (London) Bibliographical Society in 1988, an Honorary Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Humanities in 1988. His honorary doctorate from Victoria in 1997 gave him especial pleasure, albeit muted by current government policies for higher education. He successfully resisted suggestions that he should move either to Canberra or Virginia. In 1976 he delivered the Sanders lectures at Cambridge on the late-17th century book trade, and in 1988 he delivered the Lyell lectures at Oxford.

When, in 1985, Mrs Catherine Devas founded the Panizzi Lectures at the British Library, he was the natural first choice. His subject, "Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts", was for him something of a departure, in that (among other things) he had to come to terms with aspects of French critical theory that he found unsatisfactory. Characteristically, he was still writing and adjusting almost to the moment he went on stage. In a generation already sceptical of some of the more rigid theories of textual bibliography, he sought to expand the authority of his subject. Bibliography, "the discipline that studies texts as recorded forms", "allows us to describe not only the technical but the social processes of their transmission": in these quite specific ways, it accounts for non-book texts, their physical forms, textual versions, technical transmission, institutional control, their perceived meanings, and social effects. It accounts for a history of the book and, indeed, of all printed forms.

He had tested the principles first on early drama, and especially on early editions of William Congreve, and had further tested them on, amongst other "texts", the film of *Citizen Kane*. The lectures (published in 1986) have since proved to be a turning-point in their subject. They brought new friends and invitations from continental Europe, and have since been translated into French and Italian.

No less vitally, he followed up questions raised in the lectures to explore the relationships between oral and written texts, returning here to one of the most difficult of all issues in New Zealand history: the Treaty of Waitangi, "signed" in 1840 between a non-literate people and the representatives of Queen Victoria. For years, he had been a leading advocate of the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, and



McKenzie: Oxford Professor of Bibliography, 1989-96

in 1985 the library co-published his further work on this subject as *Oral Culture, Literacy and Print in Early New Zealand*.

From Oxford, aided by colleagues across the country, he planned the multi-volume *Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*, of which the first volume will appear later this year. For Oxford University Press, he worked towards a major edition of Congreve, that he has left all but completed.

His marriage to Christine Ferdinand, of Magdalen College, brought a further range of interests, and more travel. At long last, he accomplished a wish to see the old court theatre at Drottningholm in Sweden. Like others, they went round in a tourist group, and it was this white-headed professor from Oxford who pushed forward so as to have the first turn on the thunder machine - the closest he could get to the theatre in the time, if not the city, of Congreve.

Formally, he retired from Oxford in 1996. His last years were dogged by heart problems, but that did not necessarily stem his energies. A prolonged visit to New Zealand last Christmas enabled him to put many of his affairs there into order, and to

see some old friends. But his dreams were never to be fulfilled of retiring for part of the year to his small house overlooking Cook Strait and as far out of Wellington as he could get while still having access to the Victoria computer. Instead, he collapsed in an Oxford library, hard at work on someone else's behalf, generous to the end.

DAVID MCKITTERICK

Donald Francis McKenzie, bibliographer and teacher, born Timaru, New Zealand 5 June 1931; Fellow, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge 1960-66; Professor of English Language and Literature, Victoria University of Wellington 1969-87 (Emeritus); Sanders Reader in Bibliography, Cambridge University 1975-76; President, Bibliographical Society 1982-83; FBA 1986; Reader in Textual Criticism, Oxford University 1988-89; Lyell Reader in Bibliography 1987-88; Professor of Bibliography and Textual Criticism 1989-96 (Emeritus); Fellow, Pembroke College, Oxford 1986-96; married 1951 Dora Haig (one son; marriage dissolved); 1994 Christine Ferdinand; died Oxford 22 March 1999.

## Stefan Schnabel

AFTER A long career playing Middle European characters on stage, screen, television and radio, including a period with the Old Vic and an association with Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre, the German actor Stefan Schnabel achieved his greatest fame and public recognition with a 17-year run in the television soap opera *Guiding Light*. He accepted this with equanimity, stating, "As an actor, if your role on a soap opera is long-lasting, it's possibly the only financial security you know, and it enables you to more or less pick and choose what you want to do with the rest of your time."

The son of the concert pianist Arthur Schnabel, he was born in Berlin in 1912 (his mother Therese was a singer) and after attending the University of Bonn, studied at the Gruening School of Acting in Germany. In 1930 the family moved from Germany to Italy, and three years later Schnabel moved to London, where he joined the Old Vic, making his debut there as an off-stage wind noise in *The Tempest* (1933).

Subsequent roles included the Soothsayer in *Antony and Cleopatra* (1934) and Morrison in *Major Barbara* (1935). As Charles in *As You Like It* (1936) he wrestled with Michael Redgrave, and he supported such stars as John Gielgud, Maurice Evans, Charles Laughton and (in *Hamlet*) Laurence Olivier.

Moving to New York in 1937 he found work in radio, including a role in the suspense series *The Shadow* starring Orson Welles, who asked Schnabel to join his Mercury Theatre players. He made his Broadway debut that year as Metellus Cimber in Welles's landmark production of *Julius Caesar*. Subtitled "The Death of a Dictator", it was played in modern dress, and had bold lighting effects to suggest the columns of light of the Nuremberg rallies.

Both production and performances met with acclaim and the following year Welles cast Schnabel in the adaptation of H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds* that started a nationwide panic when listeners thought that the United States had really been invaded by Martians. Schnabel played a Pennsylvania Dutch farmer who dies at the hands of the Martians. He recalled that after finishing his part he was sitting in the anteroom. "A few policemen tricked in, then a few more. Soon the room was full of policemen and a massive struggle was going on between the police, page boys and CBS executives, who were trying to prevent the cops from busting in and stopping the show. It was a show to witness."

Schnabel went on to appear in over 3,000 radio shows. On *This Is Our Enemy* he often played Nazi roles, and during the Second World War he broadcast propaganda messages to his native Germany. Serving with the Office of Strategic Services during the war, he worked with the underground in England, Germany, France and Holland and was awarded a Certificate of Merit.

He made his screen debut in Welles's production *Journey Into Fear* (1942) and on Broadway he appeared with Welles in the Cole Porter musical *Around the World in 80 Days* (1946). Other Broadway roles included Lopakhin in *The Cherry Orchard* (1944), Colonel Ikonenko in Peter Ustinov's *The Love of Four Colonels* (1953), Papa Yoder in the musical *Plain and Fancy* (1955) and General Hotzendorf in John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* (1968). His last principal role on Broadway was in Mike Nichols's production of Andrew Bergman's *Social Security* (1968).

His films included several spy stories - for example as the head of a Communist espionage network in *The Iron Curtain* (1948). He made over 100 television appearances in prestigious dramatic shows before his role as Dr Stephen Jackson in *Guiding Light*. He was pleased, he said, that during his 17 years with the soap opera his character evolved from a grumpy physician to a more sympathetic surgeon.

In 1947 Schnabel married the actress Marion Kohler and for 45 years they lived in Connecticut, where they founded the Rainbow Theatre, appearing together there in T.S. Eliot's *The Confidential Clerk*, Dürrenmatt's *The Physicists* and other plays. In 1992 they moved to Rogaro, Italy, where they were living at the time of Stefan Schnabel's death.

TOM VALLANCE



Schnabel as the spy chief in *The Iron Curtain*, 1948. Photofest

*Bibliography, 'the discipline that studies texts as recorded forms', 'allows us to describe not only the technical but the social processes of their transmission'. McKenzie's lectures were a turning-point in their subject*

aching to return home. With the help of microfilms of the relevant manuscripts, and slow ships, he brought together a series of surveys of apprentices of the London Stationers' Company from the 17th and 18th centuries (published in three volumes, 1961-78), and so gave new impetus to the prosopography of the British book trade.

In Wellington, in 1962 he established the Waitata Press, persuading Cambridge University Press to lend one of its oldest hand presses and begging much of the equipment from printing houses in and around Wellington as they gradually closed down or were re-equipped. His list soon included Alistair Campbell, Iain Lurie, Peter Bland and others, some of the best writers in New Zealand at a time when it was difficult to get such work published.

With Douglas Lilburn, he established a series of scores by New Zealand composers. He became the founding Director of Downstage, the first professional theatre company in New Zealand; he took an active interest in avant-garde film; and, ever an idealist, he even thought (not for long) of politics.

But, for his students, and for his more general audiences, the day was won by his conviction, the logical structure of his thought and writing, and his intellectual, oratorical and theatrical strategies.

In 1987, he retired from Wellington. Always seeking to find 30 hours in every 24, he accepted an invitation from Oxford to a fellowship at Pembroke College and the English Faculty's readership in historical bibliography. The teaching was postgraduate, and he relished it, stretching the definition of bibliography so as to bring out innate enthusiasms.

It was the same in departmental meetings and in committees in Wellington, Oxford and London, where he served for a while on the Advisory Committee of the British Library. In the last few years, he would sometimes acknowledge that the zeal that he threw into his arguments, and the passion with which he conducted his discussions, could be physically dangerous to his health. Some arguments he lost. In many others, sometimes seeing matters with more vision or from a different viewpoint (there was a certain advantage in being an out-

## Sir Edward Playfair

SIR EDWARD Playfair appeared on the surface to be the epitome of the Treasury knight - Eton and King's, and, after a spell in the Treasury, becoming a Permanent Secretary of a Department. In fact, Eddie Playfair was far from being a pillar of the Establishment.

He was notably unathletic at Eton, where he was a wet hoh until as cox he steered his boat on the Thames into the bank. Banished to the furthest corner of the deep field at cricket, he sat down and met remonstrance with the indisputable fact that there was no rule against it.

He was a scholar at King's and shone in an era of specially talented Cambridge undergraduates. He took a First in Classics and then read History. He was the exact contemporary of Julian Bell, the son of Clive and Vanessa, and of Robin Brook, later a director of the Bank of England. He used to give a wicked imitation of C.P. Snow unravelling the mysteries of Dostoevsky to his acolytes.

He passed into the Inland Revenue in 1931. He was a singularly unambitious person and used to say that his one ambition was to be appointed to the Royal Mint. But his quickness of mind was such that he was soon moved in 1934 to the Treasury. He was one of the first to spot the deplorable consequences that would follow if the Morgenthau plan for pastoralising Germany after the Second World War was accepted. That would repeat all the evils that Keynes had foreseen in his famous polemic against the Versailles peace treaty.

He also had a hand in financing the universities, for at that time the then University Grants Committee got its grant direct from the Treasury. Playfair realised, as after the First World War, that the universities would be flooded with returning warriors and in any case needed to expand. Although the Treasury is traditionally concerned with reining in public expenditure, Playfair relished being able to increase the sub-

vention to learning. He did the same for museums and art galleries and later became a member of the Fine Arts Commission. He was a master at handling the Public Accounts Committee. If something had gone seriously wrong, he made an apology so frank and abject that the committee was stunned into silence.

In 1947 he spent a year at the London end of the Control Commission for Germany and began the rundown of that over-ambitious organisation whose expenditure, including the feeding of the German population, was ruining the finances of the country. It was in the Control Commission that he got to know the new kind of professional staff officer, highly competent and hard-working, that had emerged under Alan Brooke and Monty. This was to stand him in

*In a one-time civil-service tradition, he never paraded his culture or boasted of how he had 'fixed' things*

good stead when, after a further nine years at the Treasury, he was appointed Permanent Under-Secretary at the War Office in 1956.

It was a difficult time for soldiers. First there was the bungled Suez expedition, then the abolition of National Service and the 1957 White Paper, which forced proud regiments to lose their separate identity and amalgamate.

Playfair liked soldiers. His sympathy and tact towards those suffering rationalisation were noted and he was appointed KCB in 1957. He



Playfair, right, as chairman of International Computers and Tabulators, shows the Prime Minister of Sweden, Tage Erlander, round the ICT headquarters in Stevenage. Hulton Getty

was next moved to the new department of the Ministry of Defence, set up to rationalise the three armed services. There he was less happy because he found his political boss, Harold Watkinson, less congenial than Julian Amery, with whom he had been on such good terms at the War Office.

When aged six, little Playfair was asked what he would like to do when he grew up. Eddie answered: "Retire." No one can have enjoyed retirement more than he did. He was made chairman of International

Computers and Tabulators but resigned, saying that the company needed a salesman at its head. He was, however, for 18 years a director of National Westminster Bank and of Glaxo, and served on the boards of other companies.

He became a trustee and for two years chairman of the board of the National Gallery and was a most useful member of the governing bodies of Imperial College and University College London. At the time of student unrest, his sense of humour never failed him, and the militant

student who had just denounced him at a meeting of the college council, demanding his resignation as a capitalist exploiter, found himself having a drink with him after the meeting was over.

But, of all academic institutions, his first love was King's, and few bouquets gave him greater pleasure than his election there as an Honorary Fellow. He was a scholar *manqué*. His greatest interest was in the derivation of words and his etymological discoveries found their way into the new edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. He liked dogs, books and clever people such as himself.

Molly Playfair, whom he married in 1941, was a qualified doctor with a practice and together they raised three high-spirited daughters. All were with him when, in his 90th year, he lay dying of cancer. He left his affairs in meticulous order, stipulating that there should be no funeral or memorial service. In the waking intervals of his last hours, he spoke of Petronius and quoted in Greek Euripides, kindly translating for the benefit of his wife.

NOEL ANNAN

ALTHOUGH EDDIE Playfair was chairman of the National Gallery trustees for only a comparatively short period, from 1972 to 1974, writes Sir Michael Levey, his term coincided with several changes and problems and major challenges, all of which he dealt with in typically deft, equable and thoughtful manner. He conceived of the chairman's role as essentially supportive of the director; not to initiate but to advise and warn and be consulted. Long before he became a trustee, in 1967, he had been providing invaluable guidance and support to the gallery from his post in the Treasury, and his Whitehall contacts, up to ministerial level, were to be extremely useful in crises that occurred under the Heath government.

But he was not prepared for the

savage, personal nature of the entrance charge issue as pursued so obsessively by the late Viscount Eccles, then Minister responsible for the Arts. He did all that he could to negotiate and to wring concessions for the gallery from a man with whom he had previously been very friendly, but the episode saddened him both in principle and personally. From the first, experience had told him that concept was as impracticable as it was undesirable and that an enlightened government's aim should be to encourage free access by the public to the national museums and galleries.

I feel it part of my own great good fortune that Eddie Playfair should have been chairman of the trustees when I succeeded Sir Martin Davies as Director in 1973. Shrewd, kind and amusing, always calm and never overbearing, he brought keen intelligence to every question within the gallery while in general conversation he constantly astonished me by the wide range of his abstruse knowledge - now of Serbo-Croat, now of Scottish legal terminology. In a one-time civil-service tradition, he never paraded his culture or talked of his beliefs or boasted of how he had "fixed" things. But he stood for the humane, the literate and the quietly strove for realisation of those ideals in life.

Edward Wilder Playfair, civil servant, born London 17 May 1909; CB 1949, KCB 1957; Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War 1956-59; governor, Imperial College of Science and Technology 1958-63; Fellow 1972; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence 1960-61; chairman, International Computers and Tabulators 1961-65; director, National Westminster Bank 1961-79; trustee, National Gallery 1967-74, chairman 1972-74; married 1941 Dr Molly Roe (three daughters); died London 21 March 1999.

47/11/2015



Stefan Schnabel

# Norman McCann

DESPITE HIS cashmere coat with its pink collar and theatrically over-wide, trimmed trilby, Norman McCann remained the same earthy East-End-er he was born. An accomplished musician with a keen and innovative eye for a business deal, he will be remembered with gratitude by the young singers who continue to receive bursaries from the trust fund he established and with respect by students researching into the extraordinary musical archives he amassed during the last 30 years.

His parents, poor as any family in Twenties Deptford, nevertheless managed to keep their bright son at school until he had taken his School Certificate. At 16, he signed an indenture as an apprentice toolmaker and consequently, when war broke out, was considered too valuable to be allowed to join the Navy, for which he volunteered.

One night while he was on fire watch guarding his factory, the house next door received a direct hit. McCann escaped from the wreckage, which wrote off all the valuable machinery. At least the authorities considered that everything was written off but, with his younger brother Stanley, he searched the ruined building examining everything they could excavate. He reckoned at least eight of the 18 lathes and drills could be saved and made such a fuss that an engineer was sent from the War Office to check them. He was right, and aged 20 was given a medal and the job of setting up a new manufacturing base with the machines, in the comparative safety of High Wycombe. It was this move which changed the direction of his life.

Opposite the factory, newly arrived from Wales, lived the Elias family and the sound of music and singing was always to be heard coming from their house. McCann, five foot nothing in his socks, met one of the daughters, Winifred Elias, a petite and pretty 14-year-old who sang with a local dance orchestra after school. Elias Elias, her father, gave music lessons and McCann signed up for a course on singing, as a way to get to know the girl who would later become his wife.

When the new factory was in full production, McCann was called up into the Army. Returning to camp too late at night with a few beers inside him, the new private hurst into song in the middle of the parade ground. Two red caps hauled him in front of the sergeant and sentence was passed immediately. He was to sing a medley at the farewell concert being arranged for a colonel about to embark. A trifle merry he may have been, but his wits were still about him. "Got no music, Sarge - all at home." And he gained an extra weekend pass to visit his family.

One of the songs he sang, "Ave Maria", turned out to be the Colonel's favourite. After the show, the Colonel sent for him and offered him the job of entertainments organiser, if he was prepared to sail in three days' time. McCann thanked him for the opportunity; he said he would be honoured to accept but he feared a mere private would not carry sufficient authority for such a job. A quick promotion and Corporal McCann left to spend his time in the Army in Haifa, arranging shows for the troops and learning skills that would stand him in good stead later on.

In 1948, dressed in full uniform with medals, McCann auditioned at the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded a scholarship to study with Rosina Buckman and Olive Groves. Winifred joined him to study with the

same teachers. The Principal, Myers Foggins, told McCann he would never succeed, because of his East End accent. He proved Myers wrong not only by winning the elocution prize but by becoming an accomplished singer in both Italian and Welsh and being awarded the special Certificate of Singing, ranking above the medals.

At that time students were forbidden to take professional engagements and when McCann was spotted at an audition, he was hauled again in front of the Principal. His excuse? That he was attending auditions to gain experience so that he would be well prepared after graduation. Fortunately the Principal never found out that under the name Paul Manning he was already a member of the chorus in the West End musical *Wild Thyme*.

After graduating, he changed his wife Winifred's name to the more glamorous Lucille Graham and began acting as her agent and manager, with such success that other artists soon approached him to do the same for them. At first he continued the two careers side by side, as singer and agent, but within a short time his flair for management took over and his career as a professional tenor was abandoned.

McCann's life continued to be blessed with many a touch of serendipity. He bought a radio with a good short-wave band so he could listen to music from around the world and one night, after a particularly splendid concert broadcast from the Soviet Union, he wrote to Moscow asking for more details of the orchestra and music. His letter was answered competently and enthusiastically and the correspondence eventually led to his bringing many solo artists and orchestras to Britain, from behind the Iron Curtain.

Although he arranged the first British engagements for artists from more than 20 countries, including Fladino Domingo's British debut, his foremost interest continued to be in presenting talent from the Eastern bloc. This enthusiasm brought him great honour in several countries. He was honoured by the Bulgarian government with the Order of Kyril and Methodius, the Czechoslovakians awarded him the Smetana Medal and the Hungarian government gave him the Kodaly Medal. Occasionally someone would accuse him of being a fellow traveller



McCann with his wife, Lucille Graham, at St Bride's, Fleet Street

house. The joint conductors of the tour on that occasion were Kurt Sanderling and Kurt Masur, both visiting Britain for the first time. Some members of the orchestra asked what on earth they were doing playing in such a place. "You're Communists, aren't you?" he challenged. "You believe in playing for the working man? Well that's what you're doing tonight." Sanderling became a great admirer and close friend of McCann, whose management was totally hands-on. He met the artists on their arrival at the airport, accompanied them throughout their tours making sure they were well treated, and being a musician himself was able to anticipate their needs.

One day on an early tour, while the incoming artists caught up on their

programmes, thousands of photographs signed by artists, letters written by internationally acclaimed musicians, rare documents and unique, historic archive material. This "International Music Museum" - conservatively valued at over £1.5m - he donated to the Royal Academy of Music, where it forms the centrepiece of the new museum being set up at York Gate, in a house next door to the academy.

McCann's musical activities included being President of the British Association of Concert Agents, Concert Organisation to the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen, Executive Director of the Children's Opera Group and Concert Manager to the London Bach Society, whose choir he took on tour to Bulgaria. He was also Chairman of the Resources Committee of the Family Welfare Association, an active Executive Member of the Greater London Playing Fields Association and President of the Lewisham Ratepayers Association.

McCann always said that he had come into the world owning nothing and would leave it the same way. He lived the life of a bon vivant in a comfortable home with a good cellar. He enjoyed fine cooking but never lost his childhood taste for a good saveloy.

In 1992, thwarting the taxman, he put all his possessions into the Lucille Graham Trust, the income from which will benefit young artists at various musical academies, by the award of scholarships. He was able to take a small income from the trust to act as adviser but from last April, when he became ill, he lived on his state old age pension.

LYNN TEN KATE  
Norman William John McCann, impresario and collector: born London 24 April 1920; married 1943 Winifred Elias (Lucille Graham, died 1991) (one son by Lucille Bogdan); died London 20 March 1999.

McCann said that he came into the world owning nothing and so he would leave it. He gave away his £1.5m music collection and lived on his old age pension

only to learn that he was a Conservative Councillor for the London Borough of Lewisham.

McCann's interest in Communist countries was confined to the arts and the admirable way they were often funded and financed. He wanted audiences in Britain to be able to listen to these artists live and that did not only mean audiences in London and the big cities. His wife was Welsh, and he regularly presented concerts throughout the Principality, sometimes in unorthodox venues. On its first tour, after visiting major concert halls, he arranged for the Leipzig Gewandhaus Symphony Orchestra to play in a Welsh school

sleep. McCann wandered around an antique shop and found a silk commemorative programme from Victorian times, celebrating a command performance at Drury Lane for a visiting head of state. The proprietor explained these exquisite programmes were rare, having only been produced on the most glittering of occasions. At the same time McCann was given a signed photograph of Benjamin Gigli, by a grateful client. The two items sparked off the interest that was to make McCann into a leading collector of musical memorabilia.

The collection, housed formerly in a converted coach-house in his garden, comprises several dozen, framed, silk

## GAZETTE

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Edward, Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends the "The Magnificent Seven" Dinner at the Hyatt Carlton Hotel, London SW1. The Princess Royal, Patron, British Quality Foundation, attends the "Winning through Excellence" Joint Award Winners Conference at the Cumberland Hotel, London W1; attends the National Equine Forum, Royal Veterinary College, London NW1; and, as Patron, British Executive Service Overseas, attends their Gala Concert at Shell International Limited, London SE1. The Duke of Gloucester, Honorary Freeman and Liverman, attends the Lenten Dinner at Vintners' Hall, London EC4.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

### BIRTHDAYS

Sir Brian Bailey, former chairman, Television South West, 78; Mr Dudley Barker, writer, 89; Major Sir Shane Blewitt, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 64; Mr Humphrey Burton, writer and broadcaster, 68; Sir Kenneth Carlisle, former MP, 58; Sir William Charles, High Court judge, 51; Mr Lawrence Cunliffe MP, 70; Mr Stephen Dorrell MP, 47; Professor Mary Douglas, anthropologist, 78; Professor Sir Raymond Firth, anthropologist, 98; Mr Ronald Flanagan, Chief Constable, RUC, 50; Professor Sir Patrick Forrest, surgeon, 76; Mr Robert Fox, chairman, 47; Miss Aretha Franklin, soul singer, 57; Sir Peter Gibbings, former chairman, Anglia TV, 70; Mr John Giffard, Chief Constable, Staffordshire, 47; Mr Paul Michael Glaser, actor, 55; General Sir James Glover, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 70; Sir Elton John, singer, 52; Mr Geoffrey John, chairman, Food from Britain, 65; The Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, Archbishop of Wales, 66; Mr Nick Lowe, rock performer and composer, 50; Sir Bernard Miller, former chairman, John Lewis Part-

nership, 95; Mr Leif Mills, general secretary, Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, 68; Lord Quinton, former chairman of the board, British Library, 74; Mrs Christine Russell MP, 54; Mr William Taylor, Commissioner, City of London Police, 52; Lord Walker of Worcester, former MP, 66; Mr Michael Whitlam, Director-General, British Red Cross Society, 52; Mr Keith Whitson, chief executive, Midland Bank, 56.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Henry II, king, 1133; Matthew Merian the Younger, engraver and painter, 1621; Jean-Baptiste Paulin Guérin, painter, 1783; Alexander Ivanovich Herzen, journalist and writer, 1812; Arturo Toscanini, conductor, 1867; Bela Bartok, composer, 1881; Jean Sahlon, singer, actor and composer, 1906; Alan John Percivale Taylor, historian, 1906.

Deaths: Nicholas Hawksmoor, architect, 1836; "Novalis" (Friedrich Leopold, Freiherr von Hardenberg), poet, 1801; Frédéric Mistral, Provençal poet, 1914; Achille-Claude Debussy, composer, 1918; John

Drinkwater, poet and playwright, 1937; John Derrick Mordaunt Snagge, broadcaster, 1996.

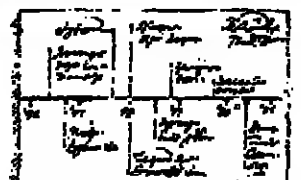
On this day: the Council of Pisa met, 1409; Robert O Bruce was crowned King of Scots at Scone, Perthshire, 1306; Sir Walter Raleigh was granted a patent to exploit Virginia's "moons", was discovered by Christian Huygens, 1655; the British parliament abolished the slave trade, 1807; Rotherhithe pedestrian tunnel beneath the Thames was opened, 1848; the Italians invaded Abyssinia (Ethiopia), 1895; 350,000 gallons of alcoholic liquor was dumped into the Chicago river by US prohibitionist law agents, 1922; King George of Greece was deposed, and a republic was proclaimed, 1924; the Fascist government in Italy claimed to have received 99 per cent of the votes in the general election, 1928; *Hamlet* became the first British film to win an Academy Award for "Best Picture", 1948; the European Community was established, 1957; President Ayub Khan of Pakistan resigned, and General Yahya Khan, the army commander-in-chief took over, proclaiming martial

law, 1969; the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Khalid bin Abdul Aziz, succeeded to the throne, 1975.

Today is Lady Day (Feast of the Annunciation) and the Feast Day of St Alfwold, St Barontius, St Dismas, the Good Thief, St Hermandland, St Lucy Filippini and St Margaret Clitherow.

### LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "Writers and Painters (iv): Emile Zola and the Impressionists", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Michael Keen, "Style 1850 to 1900", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twobig, "Matisse, Picasso and Braque", 1pm. British Museum: Vincent Daniles, "They Eat Objects Don't They?", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Professor H.C.G. Matthew, "John Everett Millais Series: Millais and his four prime ministers", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Peter Hughes, "Louis XVI Bouffe Furniture", 1pm. Gresham College, at St Andrew's Church, London EC1: Professor Richard Holway, "What is the Use of Jesus?", 5.30pm.



## HISTORICAL NOTES

LISA APPIGNANESI

# Identities for sale in wartime Warsaw

THE HORRORS of Auschwitz and the other killing camps have shrouded the history of that small number of Jews who miraculously managed to survive the Nazi extermination machine in Poland by masquerading as Aryans. The mixture of ingenuity and cunning, of good fortune and bursts of heroism which marks their experience deserves a place in the literary canon of the Holocaust.

For a Jew to live as an Aryan - or on the "Aryan side", as people used to say referring to a geography which, in Warsaw, had a vast ghetto wall as a demarcation line - was no easy feat. It took, first of all, an act of premonitory imagination, a sense that if Jews were being herded together, the consequences, this time, would be on a scale never yet seen. Jews, after all, had had a history of ghettoisation, of living in their own quarters and surviving terror. In the early years of the Second World War, few foresaw the hideous scale that this particular pogrom was to take. Those who did usually belonged to a younger, more secular generation and one which could speak unaccented Polish.

The decision to disobey the order to enter the ghetto walls or to risk instant death by escaping them - ripping off the white armband and blue star that signalled Jewishness - led not to immediate freedom, but to a different world of danger.

In an occupied police state, identity papers became as crucial as food or fuel. ID checks were frequent and brutal. Procuring an Aryan identity was thus the first step towards dissimulating one's Jewishness. Blank baptismal certificates could be purchased on the black market. But "authentic" ones, supposedly official replacements for lost documents, were safer. In either case, a name, perhaps of someone recently dead, together with the name of a church, preferably destroyed and, for good measure, the name of a priest, preferably dead, had to be found. Details had then to be typed out and authorised by a same notary or an engraver who could create a good imitation of a notary's stamp. Each step required a fee. Armed with this the Jew could then register with the police and finally obtain the *Kennkarte* - the German-issued ID every Gentile had to carry.

Being blond was an asset in this, as in the rest of the business of survival. But it was hardly enough. Blondness didn't reach to cover the evidence of circumcision. Nor could it disguise fear that had become daily, habitual, instinctive dread - the wayward glance over one's shoulder, the hunched shoulders, the quick pace, almost a run. My dark-haired father, having escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto, stayed in hiding in a boarded-up warehouse room for several months in order to

learn not only his catechism and saints' days, but how to look confident, unafraid, in preparation for the streets.

The streets were treacherous. Germans, it was said, could sometimes be duped. But Polish policemen had the noses of bloodhounds and could sniff out Jews. Well-paid informers and perfidious *szmalcowniki* or blackmailers prowled Warsaw for lucrative prey, squeezing out payments, before offering up their victims to the occupying power. Worst of all were the notorious *Japonki*, brutal round-ups in which whole blocks were cordoned off by armed SS and all able-bodied individuals were promptly shipped off to labour camps in Germany. Or worse.

Yet staying home was hardly an option. The healthy were meant to be at work, which entailed more documents. Neighbours grew suspicious of an idler, who could only be a Jew. In Poland, by October 1942, sheltering Jews had become a crime punishable by execution. The fact that the Nazis found it necessary to impose the death penalty in Poland and in no other occupied country suggests, against popularly received wisdom, that the Poles were more prone than other nations to helping the Jews.

Lisa Appignanesi is the author of *Losting the Dead* (Chabot & Windus, £15.99) and *The Dead of Winter* (Bantam, £9.99).

# Executor de son tort can be trustee

AN EXECUTOR *de son tort*, being one of the adult children of an intestate parent, could become a constructive trustee.

The Court of Appeal allowed the plaintiff's appeal against a decision that her claim to be entitled to a one-third share in a property left by her mother, who had died intestate, was statute barred.

The plaintiff's mother died in 1972, leaving a property known as Rose Cottage. No attempt was made to take out letters of administration of her estate. By virtue of sections 46 and 47 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925, the mother's residuary estate was held on the statutory trusts for her three adult children, the plaintiff, her brother William and sister Thirza.

The plaintiff became estranged from her brother and sister, and they acted thereafter as if Rose Cottage was William's property. In 1993 William died, having appointed Thirza and her daughter, the defendant, as his executors and beneficiaries.

The defendant proved his will and purported to assign Rose Cottage to herself and her mother, subject to a charge to a building society from which William had obtained a loan. Thirza died in 1996, and, by her will, left all her property to the defendant, who thereafter claimed to be the sole owner of Rose Cottage.

In 1996 the plaintiff issued an originating summons claiming, *inter alia*, a declaration that she was entitled to a one-third share of Rose Cottage, and an order that the property be sold with the proceeds of sale to be divided as to one-

## THURSDAY LAW REPORT

25 MARCH 1999

James v Williams  
Court of Appeal  
(Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Aldous)  
8 March 1999

third to the plaintiff and the balance to the defendant. The judge dismissed the plaintiff's claim on the ground that it was statute barred, holding that, pursuant to section 15(1) of and para 3 of Sch 1 to the Limitation Act 1980, the statutory period of 12 years ran from the death of the plaintiff's mother.

The plaintiff had relied on section 21(1)(b) of the Act of 1980, which provided that no limitation period should apply to an action brought by a beneficiary under a trust to recover property from the trustee or the proceeds of the trust property in the possession of the trustee, or previously received by the trustee and converted to his use.

She submitted that the definition of "trustee" in section 68(1)(17) of the Trustee Act 1925 made it clear that "trustee" in the Act of 1980 included a constructive trustee. The judge held, however, that William, and probably Thirza, were executors *de ses torts* and thus were not constructive trustees. The plaintiff appealed.

Hugh Parker (Pool Purchases &

Stokes, Penzance) for the plaintiff; W.D. Angier (Cornish & Birch, Penzance) for the defendant.

Lord Justice Aldous said that it was accepted that by treating the property as his own William had, without valuable consideration, meddled in the estate of his mother, and that his actions had been such that he had become what was known as an executor *de son tort*. Since there was no direct authority on the point at issue, it had to be decided in accordance with general principles.

As a general rule a constructive trust attached to property which was held by a person in circumstances in which it would be inequitable to permit him to assert full beneficial title to the property. In many cases, an executor *de son tort* would not be a constructive trustee, but each case must depend on its own facts.

In the present case, had William taken out letters of administration after the death of his mother, he would have been a trustee pursuant to the provisions of the Administration of Estates Act 1925, and would have owed a fiduciary duty to the other beneficiaries.

That was relevant when considering the equitable position. The circumstances of the case were such that a constructive trust had arisen on the death of the mother. William had known that he was not solely entitled to the property. He had been under an equitable duty to hold it on trust for himself, the plaintiff, and Thirza. Accordingly, the plaintiff's case was not statute barred.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

## WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

lounge, *v.* and *n.*

obscure - perhaps from Longinus, the lanky centurion who speared Christ. As a noun, it was a Regency phenomenon (Bath, not the

motels of Williams's dread), but the OED does not make clear a nuance nicely expressed by Martin Fagg in a *New Statesman* parody of Evelyn Waugh: "I have had to chastise my son for using lounge of a room in a private house." Rest assured, there is no Andy Williams in my sitting-room; Tony Bennett, yes.



# Should we ever 'be honest'?

Dennis's girlfriend read a book on relationships, and they had an 'honesty' session. He told of old affairs and said she was overweight; she said she was still a bit in love with her old boyfriend. This has driven them apart. How honest should you be in a relationship?

## VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

It makes me squirm to think of Dennis and his girlfriend sitting down in all seriousness to be "honest" with each other. It might be less destructive if they just took it in turns to stab each other with sharp knives. I know they say that "sticks and stones can break your bones and words don't bother me", but the wounds from sticks and stones do heal up eventually, while the things that people say rankle for ever, however hard you try to forget them.

Anyway, what does "being honest" mean? Surely it doesn't mean being hurtful when there's no need to be? Or does it mean "not being dishonest" - a very different matter? And where do good manners and respect for your partner come in?

Is saying "Well, yes, I suppose you could lose a couple of pounds" any less honest than saying "You're fat"? What about "Yes, you have been putting on weight, but I'll always love you whatever size you are." It's usually possible to be completely honest, but elegant and polite and kind at the same time. Rather than say "How could you have been so rude to our host?" you could say "I think you hurt our

host quite a lot by what you said, although I'm sure you didn't mean to. It didn't do you justice." Honesty is a bit like a lemon. Not very nice if it's forced, whole, down your throat all at once, but perfectly delicious if added to another dish. I have said the most frightful things to people, but added to a cream sauce as it were. Instead of telling me to get lost they have almost invariably said that they appreciated my honesty, and have taken it as a compliment.

Anyway, what is honest or not is often a question of mood. "You're fat and selfish" is something you can think on a Wednesday, but on Thursday, after he's spontaneously visited your old mother in a nursing-home and then taken you out to dinner, you might think "You're generous, lovely and cuddly". Which is the "honest" view? I suppose you could do things the American self-help book way: "Today I am irritated by your weight problem and can only see your selfish side." But although it's an absolutely splendid way to talk in theory, I don't know a single soul who, though they endorse the idea behind it, can bring themselves to speak like that. Perhaps because it means you'd have to

say the nice things that way, too. "I love you" would turn into "Today I feel great love for you". Not very comforting. I mean, cripes, what about tomorrow?

In his diaries, James Lees-Milne wrote, having been asked by his wife whether he thought she had a sense of humour and replied that he didn't think she did: "People take it as the deadliest insult to be told they lack sense of humour; it is worse than being told their breath stinks. I shouldn't have said what I said. The truth is, one cannot be candid, or honest with one's dearest. One cannot be honest or truthful. Truth is not Beauty. It is something to be hidden in the deepest depths of one's inmost being. One must act all the time."

I don't think Dennis and his girlfriend should act all the time. They should be honest - but only when honesty is called for, and not as an end in itself. They must never, never be "brutally" honest or, indeed, brutally anything. Honesty is no excuse for being rude, disrespectful, hurtful or unloving. Honesty is terribly important; but so is presentation.

## DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



Honesty is the best policy. In a long-term relationship, anything less than honesty engenders mistrust and stores up a wealth of future problems. For the first three years of my current (very long-term) relationship, I did not allow my partner to see me without make-up - fearing that he would surely leave if he saw "the real me". However, I plucked up courage, braced myself and left it off one day. He didn't notice. He is three stone overweight and I would quite like him to lose some of this; however, it in no way diminishes my feelings for him, as he is well aware. One should invest only in a relationship that is true, underpinned by trust and love. Too many people accept romantic myths, self-delusion and empty flattery. The divorce courts are full of people who have bought and sold fairy tales about each other. These are cheap, come without guarantees and carry a high long-term cost, emotionally and financially.

BETTY B  
Birkenhead, Merseyside

No such thing as a clean slate. Don't use a "getting-to-know-you" period as a confessional.

## READERS' SUGGESTIONS

there's nothing to be gained by trying to start a new relationship with a mythical clean slate because you both will have past experiences (unless you're very young) which you will undoubtedly wish to conceal. Past relationships will have helped you to mature, and made you what you are today. Be truthful, but I'd advise caution about being too inquisitive of each other. Each of you may have secrets that may upset the other if revealed.

You're being too introspective as a pair, maybe. Chuck the How-to-do-Relationships book away and join a tennis or squash

club. You'll have far more fun and learn more about each other.  
MARTYN LLOYD  
Woodbridge, Suffolk

It's time to move on. Maybe telling you about it was an opportunity for her to let go of feelings for her old boyfriend. Sometimes I view the feelings within our hearts as having limited space to exist in.

Tell your girlfriend how much you love her now. The past is gone. Look to the future and enjoy your present.  
ANNA GILLESPIE  
Glasgow

## NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,  
I'm 38 and recently realised that I desperately want children.

I've been going out with a man for three years but we keep splitting up. Now he's got broody, too, and wants children. Should I break with this man and try to find a more stable relationship? If so I'm afraid of never having children. Or should we just go for

it and see what happens?  
Yours sincerely, Wendy

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL. Fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet

## POETIC LICENCE

SOOTY - MY DRUGS HELL  
BY MARTIN NEWELL

The Independent Television Commission has upheld complaints about Sooty and Sweep encouraging dangerous behaviour among children. This followed an episode in which the puppets behaved oddly after sniffing oils from aromatherapy bottles.



When the scandal broke, a tight-lipped Sooty Baseball cap pulled down across his face. Read the papers, speeding from the courtroom. Tabloid hacks on motorbikes gave chase.

Current pictures of the pale puppet Contrast badly with an early one: Happier days with drumkit by the seaside. "What Is Wrong With Sooty?" screams The Sun.

Panda Sue: "We all just felt so powerless watching him descend the slippery slope. No one knew the pressure he was under. And I guess he found it hard to cope."

In a private clinic near Roehampton Sweep toyed with his salad and confessed: "Me an' Sooty? We went for it, yeah. Big-style. But it's what you do when you're the best."

Don't think we're the only ones to go there. Teletubbies. They won't last the pace. Check out Tinky Winky on a bad day. There's a boy who isn't on the case."

Sooty: "Everyone's been so supportive. All the cast have sent me cards and stuff. Since the story broke on Monday morning. That was when the gig got really rough."

Hopefully the worst of it's behind me. Now that Geri's brought me here to France. And of course, George Michael lent his château. Thanks to them, I've got this second chance.

That's the danger when you're in this business. Some of us burn out before we peak. Look at Sweep, he never got his voice back. Over 40 years he's had that squeak.

Not something you talk about in public. Basically, you fear what fans will think. People's hands inside you each performance. That's the one that sends you to the brink."

# My, my, Abba may be dead but Fabba are alive and glittering

The band that taste forgot still has its admirers - and plenty of impersonators. By James Rampton

usual office party standards, it's a rather buttoned-up affair. Even the attractions of the big wheel, dogdams, stilt-walkers and casino cannot loosen the natural-born formality of the 3,000 awkward-looking, dinner-jacketed corporate lawyers at their firm's annual do.

Suddenly, the lights in the purpose-built big top in the East End of London are dimmed and the talk of leveraged takeovers and management buy-outs is stifled. Over the PA, a voice calls out: "are you ready to rock, you party people?" It appears to have an inexplicable Swedish twang. A spotlight dances across a set of golden curtains which are drawn back to reveal two women standing cheek-to-cheek in white glittery mini-dresses and thigh-high leather boots. They are flanked by a pair of bearded men dressed in white Mao jackets. You double-take for a moment, thinking you may have wandered inadvertently into an S&M show, until the foursome strike up the unmistakable tones of "Waterloo". Abba are dead, long live the tribute band.

Over the next hour and a half, Fabba send the legal eagles wild. Casting aside their earlier inhibitions, the lawyers do their best approximation of letting it all hang out to the greatest hits of the Swedish supergroup. They take particular delight in imitating the band's celebrated poses: back-to-back during "Knowing Me, Knowing You", wagging their fingers at each other for "Honey, Honey", circling one another with hands on hips in "Voulez-Vous". Some of the solicitors are so relaxed, they unknotted their bow ties. Even the stilt-walkers get involved, miming broken hearts during "SOS". For an all-too-brief 90 minutes all 3,000 of us are 13 again, dancing our socks off at our first school disco.

The band leaves the stage after "Dancing Queen" to cheers that could be heard as far away as Stockholm, and the DJ puts on "Superstar" by the Spice Girls. The song empties the dance-floor faster than a stink-bomb. There is just no following Fabba.



Fabba and mentors Abba (below left): 'We can't turn Abba into a comedy band'

Fabba are only one of up to a dozen groups - others include Björn Again and Voulez Vous - who are earning a living out of impersonating the Swedish pop gods. With a six-figure annual turnover, Fabba get through more than 200 gigs a year. In the past few months they have played in Bahrain, Jersey, Althorp House, the Conservative Party Winter Ball and Bob Monkhouse's 70th birthday party. On New Year's Day they were the first act to appear on Channel 5 after Big Ben had struck 12.

Next month they play the Forum in Kentish Town, a venue that is the last word in trendiness. Fabba's mentors, Abba, are now more popular than when they split up 18

years ago. People who were fans in their school days are rediscovering the band all over again. It's like a thirty-something rekindling an affair with a childhood sweetheart.

On 6 April, the 25th anniversary of Abba's victory with "Waterloo" at the Eurovision Song Contest, Mamma Mia!, a West End musical featuring 27 of their songs opens at the Prince Edward Theatre. And that day Polydor Records are also putting out The Singles Collection, containing all Abba's 28 original A and B sides. Hearing this news, Alan Partridge would think he'd died and gone to Abba heaven.

The rock critic Nick Barber reckons we have warmed to Abba again "because they went through such a long period of being desperately unhip. They came from the decade that taste forgot, they were Swedish, and they were associated with Eurovision - none of those things is helpful if you

want to be fashionable. It's not easy to go from an uncool to a cool area, but one of the ways of doing it is to go through the 'irony tunnel'. People will start to say, tongue-in-cheek, 'I like flares', or 'lava lamps' or 'Abba'. And gradually, if the thing is any good, it will pass through the irony tunnel to become cool."

On tour with Fabba, we are not talking Rolling Stones. LeanJet levels of glamour. Before the lawyers' gig, they struggle into their impossibly tight costumes in a cramped portable cabin adorned only with a few plastic chairs and a cracked mirror.

So why do they do it? Is it just for money, money, money? They would rather talk loftily of an enduring passion for the music. Andy Skelton, who in a previous life won New Faces three times and toured with Eurythmics, was once in Björn Again but left in time-honoured Spinal Tap fashion

after "musical differences". He now works full-time as "Björn", the electric guitarist and founder-member of Fabba. He reckons that "Abba's songs have never left the public consciousness. They have been played constantly on every gold radio station. They've been a subconscious background to people's lives since the Seventies. The tacky label has even helped Abba to get through the bad times; they've got mileage out of people saying they were a laugh. Also, the music stands up - it's universal and appeals across the age range. If you buy an ultra-trendy wedding-suit, it soon goes out of fashion. Tails are more timeless."

Which is just one reason why Abba are ripe for tribute bands. Another, according to Skelton, "is the catalogue. An artist with just two hits would be hard to do, but only Elvis and The Beatles have had more hits than Abba. You can be on stage for an hour and a half and the audience will know the words to every single song. You can't do that with most bands. Tribute bands enjoy what I call 'the McDonald's Syndrome'. Rather than exper-

People will start to say, tongue-in-cheek, 'I like flares or lava lamps - or Abba'

imenting with sushi, people know what they're going to get. They're never disappointed, because they get what they expected."

While Fabba vehemently deny the suggestion that they are "anoraks", they certainly take what they do seriously. "We wouldn't want Abba to walk in and see us taking the piss out of them," says Skelton. "Abba weren't a comedy band, so we can't turn them into one now."

For all that, you have to have a sense of humour to do a job that involves dressing up in a white satin jumpsuit and putting on a Swedish accent which by their own admission contains "elements of 'Allo, 'Allo'".

The band prove as much when I bid them farewell, finally exhausted by the high-octane pace of life on the road with Fabba. Is there anything you have not told me about your rock'n'roll lifestyle, I ask in parting. "Our drug problem," Skelton deadpans. "Being in an Abba tribute band gives you a dreadful herring addiction."

Fabba play The Half Moon, Putney, London SW15 on 28 March. The Irish Centre, Leeds on 31 March. The Alley Cat, Reading on 1 April. The Woodman, Sidcup on 10 April. The Half Moon, Herne Hill, London SE24 on 16 April. & The Forum, Kentish Town, London NW5 on 17 April.



APR 1999



# Flying in the face of art

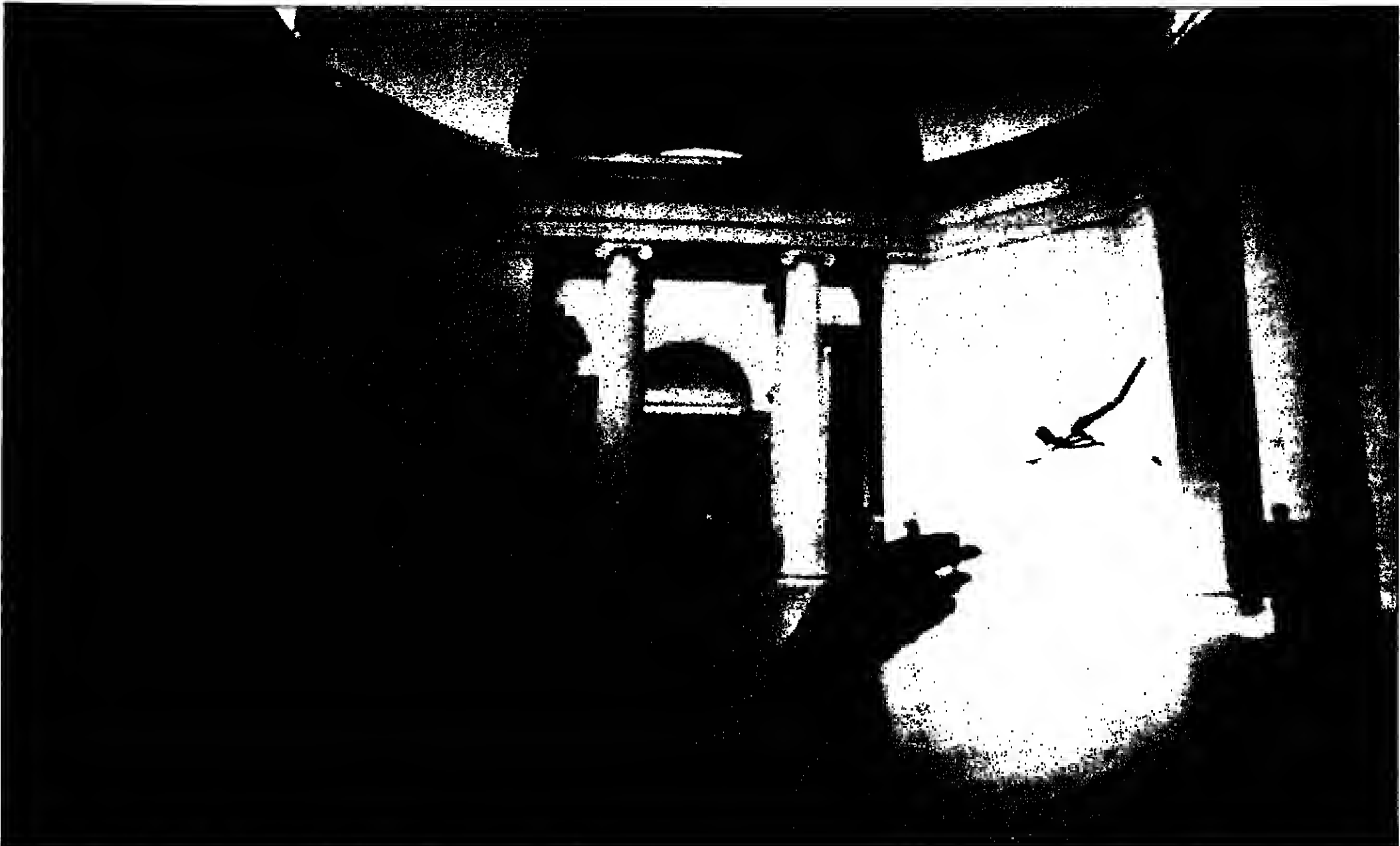
Chris Burden wants to challenge everything – and that includes the museums and galleries that exhibit his work. By Hugh Stoddart

**I**sn't that the artist who cut bits off himself?" So said a friend of mine when I mentioned Chris Burden the other day. When I came to talk with Burden I resolved not even to mention his performance pieces from the early 1970s, because he's weary with talking about them – and no, he didn't cut bits off himself. He showed his work first in the UK, in 1981, at my invitation. It was a piece called *Diamonds Are Forever*. There was, as Burden now amiably puts it, a "brouhaha" over the buying of a real diamond which it required. He went straight to Paris and presented a companion piece about gold at the Beaubourg and there was a brouhaha there too. As Burden says: "If I'd asked them to buy \$500 worth of lumber, no problem." But \$500 worth of gold was a problem. Burden is known for giving museums and galleries problems.

For the piece at the Tate (*When Robots Rule...*) he brought along a little kit plane and said he wanted it to be mass-produced in the gallery: to be made at the rate of one every minute (and given an inaugural flight) all day long for a hundred days. Andy Everett of Studio S in London was then commissioned by the Tate to create the necessary production line. I asked Burden if he would have liked to solve that problem himself, and he said yes, in that it would have increased his technical knowledge; but no, in that it would have taken him three to five years to do it. Even Studio S can only achieve one plane every two minutes.

Burden values the miracle of a technology which can save many thousands of "person hours": normally, you'd need three hours and some dexterity to build each one. It's a plane he particularly likes: it uses simple materials (balsa wood, tissue, rubber band, etc) as efficiently as possible; it's a damn good flier. I think that's an aesthetic he likes: the beauty of the impeccably rightly constructed object. He calls it the "internalised" aesthetic of the engineer. And he enjoys the microcosm of industrial capitalism inherent in the piece. Thinking about it at the planning stage, he wondered, "Suppose the price is wrong? Suppose they don't sell? What's to be done with 20,000 aeroplanes?" After all, it might be like *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* in the Disney's *Pixar* film; planes spiralling upwards like swarming ants into the vastness of the Tate's Duveen Gallery.

Burden talks about people nowadays being "cyberised" – engineers, for example, often have no hands-on experience at all in their training. He's astonished that his fine art students in Los Angeles often have only a hazy notion of, say, what something might weigh just by looking at it. He attaches a lot of importance to physical experience: our bodies and our senses are our best guide to anything. Intuition grows from that physical experience.



Many hands make flight work: Chris Burden and the product of his assembly line

Andrew Burnham

When Burden famously had someone shoot him through the arm as a performance piece in 1971, it was because that was the only way he could ever truly know what it felt like to be shot.

Burden is very committed to not being committed. Art is about "unfettered enquiry". But art is being subsumed by education: the training of artists is increasingly academic, the presentation of art is increasingly dictated by the need to educate the viewer. We so much want our artists to have opinions, and we want to know their motivations. There are so many taboos (racism, militarism, sexism,

right-wingery etc) and we want to be reassured the artist is steering a safe course amongst these dangerous rocks.

In 1979 Burden had 50,000 nickels set out across a gallery floor, each with a matchstick placed on it. Each nickel represented a Soviet tank. He titled the piece *The Reason for the Neutron Bomb* and received a bashing from people convinced he was being gung-ho or crassly male; that he was naively supporting US militarism. In fact, he wanted to take something which everyone reads in *Newsweek* but which remains so abstract, and he wanted to make it real. His tactic is confrontational but it isn't pro-

pagandist: to advocate pacifism he regards as propagandist as well. He wants us to make our own decisions. In contrast, for *The Other Vietnam Memorial* – made at the time of the Gulf War, and with that in mind – Burden had 12 sheets of copper inscribed with the names of three million Vietnamese people who died in the war there. He's less happy with that piece, though many people would have fallen eagerly on it to show that yes, Chris is OK, you know – he's on the right side.

Burden is my generation: we "came of age" (as people used to say on reaching 21) around 1968. It doesn't follow, as I've been

at pains to point out, that Burden is permanently radical, an ageing revolutionary – but it does mean that he's standing at the gallery window looking out, not standing outside eager to come in. He doesn't make art about art. He's interested in the forces which shape us, in power and money, in the forces we can control if we want to, in the choices we can make. He wants us to get a good feel of these things in our nice white galleries, once in a while.

Taking the art outside the museum isn't necessarily progress: Burden is uneasy about "public art" because he feels often there's an undeclared agenda – the art is

needed to distract from something, or it's there to decorate. This brings us back to where we began: Burden gives galleries problems because his instinct is that institutions need to be challenged. I think he feels an artist has an obligation to be absolutely an individual, to stay free – and, well, to take flight.

*'When Robots Rule'* is at the Tate Gallery, London until 13 June, sponsored by American Airlines. Hugh Stoddart was director of the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham 1978-81, and is now a screenwriter and art critic

## Accommodations with conscience

BACK IN 1992, the theatre programme at the Edinburgh Festival was given over to a retrospective of the plays of the Glaswegian Jewish dramatist, CP Taylor, who died in 1981.

Short of desecrating his grave, it is hard to see how this exercise could have had a less constructive effect on his posthumous career. The pieces were badly selected and indifferently produced. It only added insult to injury that the play reckoned to be Taylor's masterpiece, *Good* – charting the process by which a decent, intelligent academic turns into a Nazi – was reserved for the flag end of the festival.

Michael Grandage's beautifully skilful and sensitive production makes amends for this. In this staging, the emotional logic of the play's restless structure is as lucid as the shifting shafts of radiance and colour in Hartley TA Kemp's fine lighting design. The drama cross-cuts between scenes with a person suffering from senile dementia (Faith Brook),

**THEATRE**  
**GOOD**  
DONMAR WAREHOUSE  
LONDON

with a wife who is coming unravelled (an utterly convincing Jessica Turner), with an adoring pupil who becomes his mistress (Emilia Fox) and with a Jewish doctor friend (excellent Ian Gelder) who evolves into an embarrassment for Halder, our Aryan protagonist. A cunningly cast Charles Dance is an ideal choice to prove that even soulful-eyed sensitivity personified is no proof against steady attrition of self-preserving self-deception.

Artfully dotted, though, like little oases of flattering calm amidst this tragicomic turmoil, there is a staggered, low-by-blow dramatisation of Halder's first meeting with a Nazi official when, on the strength of a mother-inspired pro-euthanasia novel he has written, he is approached and seduced into taking on the



Charles Dance and Emilia Fox in 'Good'

Geraint Lewis

alleged role of humane monitor of the party's eugenic programmes. From there, the play itself monitors those individually understandable – and collectively loathsome – accommodations with con-

science that can push a man into putting job, family and skin before ideals, principles and fellow men.

Grandage's production accurately highlights the contradictions in Halder's position.

Like lost souls, Dance and Miss Fox seem to cling to each other for warmth in the crackling flames of the house of burning books. "If we're good to each other – and the people around us," she pleads, as if in-

toning some bankrupt mantra.

The fact that Halder cannot get dance band music out of his mind feels a bit sub-Dennis Potter in its juxtapositions and not especially well motivated and that, for me, slightly weakens the poignancy of the ending where, when he arrives at Auschwitz, he is horribly disconcerted to be greeted by an actual band of musical inmates. But the play and the production are very fine. It's an excellent touch that the Jewish doctor identifies with Germany and dislikes Jews (it's because Jews are human, not because they are good or bad Jews, that they should be free from persecution). It's also a heartening irony that the Jewish principle of sympathy for the individual as opposed to the bogus Nazi doctrine of "the common interest before self" should here be applied by a Jewish writer to a far from ideal German.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 22 May (0171-369 1732)

## Handel's greatest bits

IN CONTEMPORARY terms, Handel's *Lotario* is a prequel, since it fills in background to his earlier *Ottone*. And as *Lotario* wasn't a hit when it was premiered in 1729, Handel, as was his habit, had no qualms about plundering his best bits for later works. Even the libretto wasn't specific to *Lotario*, being a reworking of a text that more than one composer had already set as *Adelaide*.

Well, that's how things worked then. Our notions of autonomous works of art, of rounded characters, don't fit in opera seria, where what mattered was the ability to summon up a sequence of situations and emotions with music to match. Flot, as we know it, was but the slenderest of threads. That doesn't mean that one Handel opera works as well as any other, and *Lotario* is generally thought one of his least successful pieces.

Whether that makes it a good choice for Derys Darrow's 22nd London Handel Festival is a moot point. When the festival started, all Handel's operas were rarities. We're no longer quite so seria-starved, yet none of the operas are commonplace. Instead of rarity for its own sake, it might have been better to offer a proven classic, and to stage it in English rather than blast the audience with hours of Italian (following text in the word-books provided is both impractical and anti-theatrical).

With verbal communication compromised, there's a feeling that, to show what the words can't tell, Robert Chevara's staging relies on an uncomfortable blend of exaggerated naturalism and half-baked expressionism. When Character A isn't waving a knife at Character B's throat, Character C is standing on a chair to denote emotional extremity. Although

**OPERA**  
**LOTARIO**  
BRITISH THEATRE  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
MUSIC  
LONDON

these may not be "characters" in the modern theatrical sense, they're more than prettily singing ninnies. Yet Chevara's young singers respond with enthusiasm and skill: Kristina Wahlen enjoyed herself as the jolly villainess Matilde, while Darren Abrahams made Berengario sound sweet even while he struggled to match his wife's antic sadism.

The casts (two line-ups over three nights) are assembled from the London Royal Schools' opera departments, and if none of the singers is yet at one with Handel's exorbitant idiom, the singing is graceful, expressive and often imaginatively ornamented. In the title role, William Towers' falsetto is a little fragile, but his phrasing is idiomatic and his hearing soulful. The show's star, though, is Natasha Marsh's Adelaide, vocally radiant through all manner of dramatic indignities. An occasional tendency to overburden the singing line with expressive effect is born of a genuine dramatic impulse that promises interesting developments over the next few years.

In the pit, Paul Nicholson treats his singers with care, and gets colourfully idiomatic playing from the London Handel Orchestra. Whatever my doubts, there are still plenty of reasons to be grateful for the London Handel Festival.

NICK KIMBERLEY  
Further performance tonight (0181-336 0890). The London Handel Festival continues until 25 April

## Generation rave grows up and chills out

IN SOME creative circles there's a passionate and hotly debated conviction best expressed by the mantra "single antennas bad, combined arts good". And, of course, it's in that confusing, ill-defined world where separate disciplines mix and match that the most interesting work is being attempted. The Big Chill, which aims to be a "ground-breaker in multimedia collaboration" pushed all the correct buttons: music, film, spoken word, radio art, dance and electronic stuff filling all Sunday evening's "Words in Motion" event.

**CROSS-GENRE**  
**THE BIG CHILL**  
WORDS IN MOTION  
SADLER'S WELLS  
LONDON

Yet after several hours of hybrid work, the DJ mixes, poetry, video, readings, dancing and so on, I couldn't help feeling a thrill of excitement as the six string players of Instrumental walked on, put their written parts on the music stands and began to perform. It was a relief to sit back and hear a real band – albeit a

bunch of classically trained musicians playing smart arrangements of well-worn club tracks. Sure, there was a blue oscilloscope trace flickering, and a video of white clouds to accompany their version of the Orb's "Little Fluffy Clouds", but the performance was essentially a musical one. The Big Chill organisation takes its name from the idea of chill-out rooms – not the Laurence Kasdan movie with the Motown soundtrack – and has mounted several events in a variety of venues since 1994. This summer they host a three-day

open-air festival near Salisbury that will include a "night time site-specific art trail" and a "body & soul area". Is this the rave generation growing up? There's a good dose of adult imagination at work in the programming, which on Sunday included the documentary *Drum'n'Space* about Talvin Singh in India, rope-trick gymnast John Paul Zaccarini and dancer Claire Massingham.

Since the night was part of The Word (London's literature festival), there was also plenty of spoken text. David Toop gave a rather Bayreuthish reading

from his book *Exotica*, accompanied by a tape of fluttering improv and a flickering green oscilloscope trace on the huge screen. Actors Louise Bangay and Victor Gardner gave a funny, 15-minute performance of Peter Handke's *Self Accusation* and Galliano's Earl Zinger accompanied Massingham with poetry: from beatnik-style cut-ups to a funny, expertly executed tale of an obsessive record-buyer.

The Big Chill's co-founder Pete Lawrence screened a sequence of recorded spoken word and music in conjunction

with inventive video images and film collages by Henstat, an offshoot of Coldcut. Their brilliant electroacoustic short *Deadly Media*, was a highlight, and spoken links from Ken Nordine's *Colours* album provided light relief.

From time to time it felt more like a cinema festival, but then Instrumental's closing half-hour reminded us that theatres are made for performers as their young, committed players made live music in Sadler's Wells' state-of-the-art auditorium.

JOHN L. WALTERS



## FILM

## Love and death in LA

**S**et in 1957, *Gods and Monsters* is a speculative account of the last days of the film director James Whale. The name may not be familiar, but back in the 1930s Whale made a huge splash with two landmark horror movies, *Frankenstein* and its sequel *Bride of Frankenstein*. Thereafter his career went into decline, and he retired to a quiet backwater in LA's Pacific Palisades before he decided one morning to destroy himself: he was found dressed in a three-piece suit in his swimming-pool. Written and directed by Bill Condon, who adapted it from a novel by Christopher Bram, the film seeks an answer to why the director came to such a drastic pass. Was it madness, despair, or simply an inability to keep boredom at bay?

## THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

**GODS AND MONSTERS (15)**  
DIRECTOR: BILL CONDON  
STARRING: IAN MCKELLEN, LYNN REDGRAVE, BRENDAN FRASER  
110 MINUTES

most architectural skull," he tells Boone, who only gradually becomes aware that his employer may have designs on other parts of his anatomy.

A former marine, Boone seems at first a gulleible, almost childlike fellow, and shruggingly agrees to model for a portrait. During their sessions Whale talks openly, more openly than he intends, about his life. We learn that the sensitive boy was considered an "aberration" in his family, and that his father was a loveless man. We glimpse the closeted world of gay Hollywood, and the nude poolside parties chez Whale. And, little by little, we sense Boone's increasing fascination with this fading but still exotic creature. When he watches a TV re-run of *Bride of Frankenstein* in a bar one evening, it's apparent

that he's looking for clues to link a movie about suffering and love with the effete old man who's adopted him as a confessor. What Boone can't yet see is that his awkward tallness, his shapely skull, his "noble and misunderstood" spirit all remind Whale of the lumbering, bolt-necked figure whose legend he created years before.

*Gods and Monsters* keeps us guessing: is this a film about an evolving friendship or a fantastically devious seduction? Just when the master-monster relationship seems to have been established, director Condon throws in a dream sequence in which it is Whale supine on the operating table and Boone who's sawing off the top of his skull. The ambiguity is deepened by two beautifully nuanced performances. I'm not sure I've ever seen Ian McKellen engage with a character as intimately as this. Melancholy yet mischievous, he is lightly dismissive of the movie business yet proudly defensive of his own work. When Boone enthuses over the *Frankenstein* movies, Whale cuts in: "I just directed the first two. The others were done by backs." His voice is a superb instrument here, swilling consonants around his mouth like a connoisseur testing an especially fine vintage. And there's something touching about the fact that a man as lonely and reclusive as this still has a dandy's urge to make a perfect Windsor knot in his tie each morning.

McKellen's expertise has already been fêted. Brendan Fraser, on the other hand, was a complete revelation. I'd only ever seen him in rubbish before (*Airheads*, *George of the Jungle*), and was initially surprised that he could speak, let alone act. His role demands a tricky juggling of con-



Ian McKellen: has never engaged so intimately with a character before

traditions - innocence and guardedness, attraction and disgust, a willingness to learn confused by a reluctance to see. It would test a more cultured actor than Fraser, yet he rises to the challenge with unstylish grace. Boone is less than bright, but he's not stupid either, and the dawning realisation of his own sensitivity under Whale's influence is very movingly done.

The film makes room for a third fine performance in Lynn Redgrave's pinched, disapproving servant; it hasn't the tragic selflessness of Erich von Stroheim's butler ministering to Gloria Swanson in *Sunset Boulevard*, yet Redgrave makes us feel the bewilderment and devotion the "master" has inspired in her down the years.

With so much achievement to praise,

it might be churlish to have wished for a little more energy in the picture. I think it's lacking one or two big scenes that would affirm the oddness of the bond between an English exquisite and a blue-collar Californian; I longed for more of the social comedy that springs up at the garden party thrown by George Cukor in honour of royalty, both the Hollywood sort and the real thing. Whale takes Boone along as his guest and, in front of Cukor, a closet gay, he introduces his young friend to none other than Princess Margaret. "He's never met a princess. Only queens." The half-best McKellen leaves between those two phrases is priceless. Indeed, the more one thinks about it, the greater the outrage over Roberto Benigni carry-

ing off the Best Actor award this week. Bill Condon, who did win an Oscar (for Best Adapted Screenplay), has made a wonderful film, and saves one of his best shots till last. We see Boone, happily domesticated years later, stepping into his backyard and waiting for a rainstorm to break. Then he takes a few faltering steps, as though his boots were lead-weighted and his arms stiff in plaster; the *Frankenstein* walk. In this private moment of homage you might feel that *Gods and Monsters* isn't just about memory and mortality and unlikely friendships - it's also about the fragile yet enduring consolations of art.

Bill Condon, director of *Gods and Monsters*, is interviewed on page 12

## ALSO SHOWING

PAYBACK BRIAN HELGELAND (18) ■ AMERICAN HISTORY X TONY KAYE (18) ■ AN AUTUMN'S TALE ERIC ROHMER (U)  
■ MIGHTY JOE YOUNG RON UNDERWOOD (PG) ■ THE RUGRATS MOVIE NORTON VIRGIEVIGOR KOVALOV (U)

TWO FILMS this week shared a similar fate: both were wrested from their director's hands and completed by their star, though in neither case do you feel that a masterpiece may have gone begging. *Payback* is a brutal revenge thriller, originally under the control of Brian Helgeland, who was hired and then fired by Mel Gibson. The latter plays Porter, a career criminal who robs a Chinese

payroll of \$140,000, only to be double-crossed and left for dead by his wife Deborah Kara Unger) and his partner, Resnick (Gregg Henry). But you don't get rid of a tough guy like Porter so easily. How tough is he? Well, he steals loose change from a beggar, beats up a weedy heroin dealer and narrates the story in a tobacco-kipped growl - that tough.

The movie follows Porter

around the mean streets of Chicago as he tries to get back his share of the loot from Resnick. This involves squaring up to various foes: a mysterious organisation called The Outfit, the Chinese he originally robbed, plus two bent coppers. Gibson is aiming for the affectless, force-of-nature pose that Lee Marvin perfected in *Point Blank* - both movies are based on Richard Stark's novel

*The Hunter* - but, unlike Marvin, it's the self-love of the actor rather than the self-possession of his character that comes through. He probably thought it was brave to play someone so determinedly charmless, little realising that he hasn't been charming for years. But we're still expected to go "ooh" and "aah" as he bursts through doors and blasts holes through people.

Helgeland, or whoever ended up directing, has no fear of a cliché. Gregg Henry has a stage-villain twitch that's pure comedy, while a call-girl becomes Porter's convenient love interest; there's also the ancient absurdity of a scene in which Porter impassively takes a savage beating, but winces when a woman cleans his wounds.

Nothing about *Payback* convinces: not its bleached-out retro look, nor its gloating, designer violence, nor the cool machismo of its leading man. For all it says about life outside the movies, it may as well have been called *Paycheck*.

The British ad director Tony Kaye also lost control of his debut feature, *American History X*, during its protracted editing, and disowned the cut which the film's star, Edward Norton, finally put together. Norton's performance actually turns out to be the only reason to see this facile and meretricious drama about neo-Nazism. He plays Derek, an articulate high-school student who is taken on as protégé of a racist militant (Stacy Keach) and begins to rally the disaffected youth of Venice Beach, California, in the cause of white America. After serving a three-year sentence for killing two black men, he emerges from prison not only changed but determined that his younger brother (Edward Furlong) will not succumb to the same racist



Edward Norton in 'American History X'

instincts as he did. The idea is worthy enough, but the variable script and Kaye's distracting visual pedantry keep bringing the film to its knees. Why prefigure a jailhouse rape scene with a shot of cascading water that's straight from a shampoo commercial? Why use so much slo-mo? You can take the director out of advertising, it seems, but you can't take advertising out of the director.

Norton, with his delicate features and tough, wiry body is a magnetic presence, inhabiting the role with a conviction that grips even when the drama is at its clunkiest: once he starts in a decent movie things should become interesting for him.

After these helpings of garish *nouvelle* violence, it's with relief that one escapes to the civilised confines of an Eric Rohmer film. *Conte d'Automne*

completes his quartet of seasonal tales, offering a typically gentle essay in love, friendship and vulgarity. It concerns Magali (Beatrice Roman), a fortysomething wine-grower in the Rhone valley who feels lonely since her children left home. Two matchmakers set about finding her a man: her son's girlfriend Rosine (Alexia Portal), has lined up her former philosophy tutor (Didier Sandre) as a candidate, while her best friend Isabelle (Marie Riviere), more ambitiously has found a man named Gerald (Alain Libolt) via a lonely-hearts ad, with a view to passing him on to Magali.

Rohmer nudges along the story via long sequences of dialogue in which various *penées* and points of view are mulled over. He is one of very few directors alive who prizes the

virtue of listening - his characters talk to, rather than at, one another.

True, they sometimes behave with almost superhuman equanimity, as when Gerald discovers he's been, however altruistically, duped. It's hard to imagine people being quite so amusingly philosophical anywhere outside of a Rohmer film, but his elegant social comedies are imbued with such civility and kindness that you wouldn't deny him a small measure of wishful thinking.

Parents should brace themselves for two children's movies of awesome banality. *Mighty Joe Young* is *King Kong* for kids, relating the everyday story of an outside gorilla that's uprooted from the African jungle and transported to a conservation park in Los Angeles.

Bill Paxton and Charlize Theron play its obliging minders, and considering they act for most of the time opposite nothing (the gorilla is computer-generated), they do a pretty good job. Still, I could have lived without it.

*The Rugrats Movie* is a spin-off from a TV cartoon much beloved of tots. Having heard my teeth grind through its rash of nappy jokes and goo-goo voices, all I can say is that they're very welcome to it.

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The same but different: Peter Falk and Gena Rowlands in John Cassavetes' superb antidote to Hollywood gloss, 'A Woman Under the Influence'; right: Ben Gazzara and Elizabeth Ashley in the inferior 'Happiness'

# How indie movies lost the plot

Cruel, cold and sexually graphic, the latest crop of US independents betray a great tradition. Shame on them. By Adam Mars-Jones

The relationship between mainstream and independent cinema in America is a complex and shifting one. Sometimes they're like classmates from very different backgrounds, with the rich dumb kid sneering during school hours and then turning up late at night on the wrong side of the tracks, throwing pebbles at the window of the poor smart kid and begging for help with homework. And sometimes they're like siblings from the same dysfunctional family, one desperate to be liked and unable to make friends, the other perpetually scowling and setting fire to waste-paper baskets.

We're all familiar with the conventions of the Hollywood movie, the sheer level of contrivance, the targeting of adolescent values, the way issues are raised and then shelved. But there can be conventions to the independent film also, so that supposedly personal visions are constructed according to a set of rules. The result, typically, is a film that reverses the despised formulas of Hollywood, without having any superior contact with reality.

Evidence for this is supplied by the second films of two writer-directors whose debut work was acclaimed: Todd Solondz and Neil LaBute. Solondz's *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, which won the 1996 Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, told the story of Dawn Wiener, a homey, unpopular girl at a junior high school. Essentially this was a suburban version of "The Ugly Duckling" without the transformation (a false Dawn) and though Solondz's determination to avoid a happy ending was admirable in its way, he offered nothing that could take its place.

Neil LaBute's no-less-fetted first feature, *In the Company of Men*, took a simple situation and followed it through: two businessmen conspire to worm their way into the affections of a deaf co-worker, raising her hopes to dump her with maximum destructive effect as a way of revenging themselves in the abstract for the damage supposedly done by women to men on a routine basis.

There was a plot twist of sorts – the nastier of the men is also trying to destroy his male colleague – but no let-up in the misanthropy. If there is really such a thing as the writer's writer or the designer's designer, then Chad, played by Aaron Eckhart, was the bastard's bastard, both entirely psychotic and perfectly functional. Chad was offered up to an audience's hatred like no character in the movies since Glenn Close in *Fatal Attraction*.

The psychology in LaBute's film was no less sensationalist than in Adrian Lyne's, but the critics took *In the Company of Men* at the director's valuation and found in it an unflinching exploration of the dark side of the male psyche.

LaBute's second film, *Your Friends and Neighbors*, aspires to a larger range, with a cast of three men and three women, and the subject is sexual rather than emotional manipulation, but the tone is familiar. At the beginning of the film we're presented with two couples in bed, either wrangling or failing to communicate. What is shocking, given that neither pairing has enough in common to justify a shared cappuccino, let alone a one-night stand, is that these jarringly incompatible people are supposed to be established couples. LaBute posits a ludicrous situation, and then develops it with what we are intended to see as rigour. But to draw grotesque conclusions from a grotesque premiss is not an achievement so much as a law of logic. From a grotesque premiss no other sort of conclusion can be drawn.

In 20 years' time, people will watch *Your Friends and Neighbors* and ask, My God, was sex really like that then?, not realising that the question is unretorical, and that its answer is No.

The level of observation in the film is low to non-existent. For instance, the men in the film want to talk during sex, carrying on their seductive arias right up to the moment of orgasm, while the women want

eight, their dog got ran over, and nothing was ever the same again. It's a retreat of a *Company of Men* theme, the hollowly scary notion that psychotics can be well-adjusted at the same time. Yes, and cannibals are often vegetarians.

Any claims that *Your Friends and Neighbors* can make to providing a portrait of modern mores are supplied by that flatly generalising title, and by the annoying way that none of the characters call each other by name – as if no other effort were required to make them representative.

Todd Solondz's follow-up to *Welcome to the Dollhouse* is less mechanical than *Your Friends and Neighbors*, although it shares a certain hatefulness. The screenplay is something of a mess, but then mainstream and independent films differ sharply in the way scripts are developed. Before a screenplay can be accepted for production by a major studio, it is likely to have had so many nips and tucks that any original features are all but obliterated. A writer-director, on the other hand, one who has received a prize for his first film, is unlikely to take a script to a doctor even if it has broken bones and internal injuries.

The structure of *Happiness* seems to be a numb variant on *Hannah and her Sisters* – except that Woody Allen knew better than to make a film 140 minutes long. The sisters are a shy and unsuccessful singer-songwriter, a glamorous but secretly self-hating poet, and a housewife and mother who thinks of herself as the lucky one, the one who has it all.

The plot of the film is a succession of humiliating or degrading encounters and revelations. The singer-songwriter has a disastrous date with a man who then, after her rejection, kills himself. The poet, dissatisfied by the bimbo sexual athletes her celebrity brings her, seeks an encounter with a maker of abusive phone calls, but finds him too tame. The housewife discovers that her husband has been drugging and raping their 11-year-old son's classmates. The trademark act of sex in this film seems to take place between a conscious and an unconscious party (an obese woman brokenly caressing a dead-drunk man, for instance, before he comes to and throws her out) – necrophilia without the sincerity.

The big scene in *Happiness*, counterpart of the romantic rape-remembrance in *Your Friends and Neighbors*, shows young Billy asking his father what exactly his father did to those boys, whether he'd do it again, whether he'd do it to Billy. All very heart-rending – except that America is hardly a country where accused paedophile rapists are left alone to have heart-rending conversations with their sons.

The last scene of *Happiness* demonstrates that a work of art can remain inert even while doggedly breaking taboos. Little Billy achieves his first ejaculation on the balcony, while watching a sunbathing neighbour rub herself with cream. The family dog licks up this offering from the railing where it has landed, and Billy's mother promptly nuzzles the affectionate animal, unaware of the freight on its tongue.

The mission statement of the independent film is to explore areas from which the mainstream excludes itself. These days, it's true, that's not so easy. The look of independent film is no longer as immediately identifiable as it used to be in the days when the starkness and intimacy of every frame marked the films of John Cassavetes as an antidote and a reproach to Hollywood gloss. These days a mainstream film may affect rough edges of technique, and technical breakthroughs in affordable equipment mean that even low-budget films don't need to look raw unless they want to. Nor is it necessarily subject matter that sets independents apart. Even the male fluid used in *Happiness* featured in *The Silence of the Lambs* (flung at Jodie Foster by a prison inmate), and last year's *There's Something About Mary* proved, if nothing else, that visual jokes about semen need not put people off their popcorn.

The thing that American independents still do well is to portray intimate relationships without romanticism or reflexive cynicism. The men and women in a film by Whit Stillman or Hal Hartley are engaged in mating dances and rituals that are shot through with awkwardness and uncertainty. Behaviour that in Hollywood would be the province only of minor characters is moved from the edges to the centre.

It's this that makes films such as *Your Friends and Neighbors* and *Happiness*, with their callow determination to be unflinching in matters of sex, seem like betrayals of their tradition rather than merely failures. A reaction against cosmetic prettiness produces merely cosmetic ugliness, and the hollow "heartwarmingness" of Hollywood is answered by a faux nihilism for which there is no excuse.

*'Happiness' is released 16 April*

A film can reverse Hollywood's despised formulae without having any superior contact with reality

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AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW

RUSHES  
MIKE HIGGINS

THE TOYS came out of the pen last week when Sean Penn decided to administer Nicolas Cage's rhetorical Chinese burn. Accusing Cage of selling out with "abominable" films like *Snake Eyes*, Penn concluded in the *New Yorker* interview: "Actors shift on their profession all the time. They can't do a pure movie again, because they carry so much baggage." Cage's response was swift: "The day before he made his hurtful remarks, Sean visited me and my wife [Patricia Arquette] on the set of our new movie, *Bringing Out the Dead*. He pretended to be our best friend... And then the next day he stabs me in the back... The door to our friendship is now closed... You get enough negativity from the press without having your friends dump on you."

ANOTHER BRITISH film award success has been sadly overlooked in the last few days. In the Golden Raspberries, the ceremony that honours our rubbish the Oscars didn't get round to the Spice Girls picked up a collective Razzie for worst actress in *Spice World*. Best actor Razzie was picked up by Bruce Willis for his consistently terrible outings in *Armageddon*, *Mercury Rising* and *The Siege*.

South, available to buy £15.99  
AS ENDURANCE Sir Ernest Shackleton's exploration ship, fundered in the unforgiving pack-ice of the Antarctic in 1915, expedition photographer Frank Hurley threw himself into the submerged hold to retrieve his photographic plates and rolls of film. Thank goodness he did. Beautifully restored by the National Film and Television Archive, Hurley's account of Shackleton's ill-fated attempt to cross Antarctica is epic stuff. The film is presented as audiences 80 years ago would have seen it, complete with heroic commentary and stirring piano accompaniment. The image many still associate with Shackleton – *Endurance* locked in the ice – is as iconic as ever; Hurley's record details its tortuous destruction in expressionistic grandeur. There are touching on-board scenes of the dogs being tended to – in fact, with most of the 28-men well wrapped up, it's the dogs and pups who are the real characters here. Film of the expedition itself ends abruptly, as the explorers' predicament deepened and Shackleton undertook his 800-mile sea-journey. Included, however, are Hurley's less revealing but still delightful films of South Georgia wildlife.

MIKE HIGGINS

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# I'd like to thank Dr Frankenstein

Writer-director Bill Condon has reanimated the reputation of James Whale, one of film's forgotten heroes – and won himself an Oscar. By Liese Spencer

Bill Condon has just won an Oscar for his adapted screenplay of *Gods and Monsters*, the fictionalised biopic of James Whale, a homosexual British director who moved to Hollywood in the 1930s. Those of you who watched the whole ceremony may remember him. He was the little man who almost-but-not-quite made the scathing speech about Hollywood's homophobia (the one that Ian McKellen promised he'd make if he won the Oscar for Best Actor). Having talked to Condon just a week before, I'd hoped for more. Much more.

People expect Condon to be English. He's not. They also expect him to be witty. He is. "Doo! be afraid if you hear some odd noises," he warns me. "I might start screaming." It's the kind of greeting you hope to hear when a horror-movie director picks up the phone, but Condon is not talking from the crypt – just LA – where building work on his neighbour's apartment is making his blood boil.

A philosophy graduate, Condon moved to LA from New York in 1983 to script obscure, cult chiller such as *Strange Invaders* ("an alien invasion movie") and *Strange Behaviour* ("a mad-doctor movie"). From such B-movie beginnings, he managed to work his way behind the camera for an auspicious-sounding debut: directing Eric Stoltz and Jennifer Jason Leigh in a romantic thriller called *Sister Sister*.

"The film was out a success," admits Condon cheerfully, "so I went to film-makers' jail: directing cable movies." Having served his small screen sentence, Condon is back this week with *Gods and Monsters*. More character study than Ed Wood-style spook-fest, it's a rather different creature to Condon's earlier efforts.

Based on the novel *Father of Frankenstein* by Chris Bram, the film opens many years after such

triumphs as *Frankenstein, The Old Dark House* and *Bride of Frankenstein* were released, and imagines the final month of Whale's life, pulled into focus by his friendship with Clay, the beefcake handyman who comes to clean his pool.

As Clay, *George of the Jungle*'s Brendan Fraser once again proves he's the best topless actor around, but the film belongs to McKellen. Im-



*'It took months, and endless calls from my agent, to get Ian to read the script'*

peccably dressed but physically frail, McKellen's Whale swings between sly humour and suicidal despair, nostalgia and nightmare as he reminisces about lost loves, past productions and a miserable, working-class childhood.

McKellen's Whale impersonation is inspired, but there was a time when the actor wanted nothing to do with Whale. "Chris had Ian in mind even as he was writing the novel, so I certainly saw him on screen when I was writing my screenplay," says Condon, "but it took several months and endless calls from my agent to get him to read it." A nice pause for dramatic effect. "When he finally did, he jumped on board."

Condon faced a similar struggle selling *Gods and Monsters* to a studio. The director has said he

"would never even have pitched it to a major". Why? "Because 80 per cent of it was two people sitting in a room, talking. It's about a man who is losing his powers, not gaining powers. It's about loss, regret and melancholy. It has a gay man in the lead and it's not a perky, gay-lifestyle movie. It's about the darker, more complicated side of being gay."

Instead he approached smaller, independent studios where he was "a victim of the PC-police. They looked at the characters and said 'let's make them positive depictions'." To whitewash a movie about the creator of *Frankenstein* seemed too ironic, even for a man of Condon's satirical sensibilities, so it was lucky that he finally found a company that gave him the freedom to show Whale, warts and all.

Condon used his experience of working with British director Tony Richardson to paint a picture of an ex-pat who found his self-imposed exile equally lonely and liberating. "Early on in my career, I wrote a couple of scripts for Tony," says the director. "He was so glad to get away from the whole British class system in California, I modelled some of Whale on him." Other elements of the character came from friends of Whale's, and from McKellen himself.

At the start, Condon admits, he was intimidated by his lead actor: "Not just because of his talent, but because of the number of amazing directors he's worked with. It was like being the oenophile of someone who has been in bed with many of the greatest film-makers of all time. It makes you self-conscious." But Condon found him easy to work with and generous in his performance.

"I think Ian reveals a lot of himself in this movie," Condon says with a naughty giggle. "This character can be wildly manipulative at times, and Ian gets right in touch with all that stuff from inside himself."

If the relationship between Whale and his handyman forms the film's emotional core, Condon amuses himself stylistically by fashioning



Boris Karloff as the original monster in Whale's classic version of 'Frankenstein'; left, Bill Condon

Fraser's flat-topped hulk into a Karloff lookalike, and pasticheing Whale's pictures. "The scenes from *The Bride of Frankenstein* were great fun, but I enjoyed using touches of Whale throughout," says Condon. "At the beginning, for instance, when you first see Clay, it's in ind-

vidual body parts, like Frankenstein's monster. Then there's Lynn Redgrave's Teutonic housekeeper, whose character is straight out of Whale's gallery of grotesques."

Despite its elegiac tone, *Gods and Monsters*' playful homage seems sympathetic towards a director who

always regretted that more people didn't appreciate the camp humour of his horror.

"Oh yes," says Condon, "I think for him the great moral sin was for anyone to take themselves too seriously."

By giving audiences a Whale of a

time, *Gods and Monsters* should bring this forgotten director back to life for a new generation. Shame about that Oscar speech, though.

*'Gods and Monsters' is on release from tomorrow. See The Big Picture, page 10*

## ROBERT HANKS ON TV

*'The Lost Race'... in making fascism ridiculous did more to neuter it than any number of demonstrations*

PAGE 18

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**BEING THERE**  
(HAL ASHBY, 1979)  
**DR STRANGELOVE**  
(STANLEY KUBRICK, 1963)

SOCIAL PARODY is the link between these two films. *Being There* is my favourite movie, and this is not to say it's the greatest film ever, but the way in which it shows perception as a major element in relationships and culture strikes a chord with me.

Peter Sellers plays an idiot. However, after a string of misconceptions he is hailed as a wise man. The film is not as incomprehensible as the story appears in outline, and by the end of the film, when he is heading up a major corporation, it's somehow believable. A lot of the believability is because of astutely observed scenes, illustrating how easily we can be fooled. For instance, Sellers is holding court at a fancy party and people come up and question him, as you would a wise man, and he gives himself away – saying, "I don't read" – and they take this as meaning that one shouldn't read. Via these instances, he becomes the man others perceive him to be.

Ashby is my favourite director. Since I was a young man he has been a hero of mine; his whole body of work is stunning. *Harold and Maude* and

Coming Home would be on my greatest film list.

Peter Sellers is another connection between these films – and I am a big Sellers fan – but they are also similarly themed. The film shows the end of the world, when a paranoid US general goes truly over the edge. Sellers plays three roles, including the US President. And despite the serious anti-war message, it is a humorous film. Sellers was one of the great, great comic actors. Centred around conflict, nuclear war specifically, the ridiculousness of miscommunication is laid bare.

Issue-led and issue driven, both directors treat their respective issues with energy. The films are filled with interesting, quirky characters, so making a mockery of them is all the more fascinating. War and false worship are in no sense admirable but both films have perspective: it could be you who is fooled.

Don't take anything at face value is the message. And don't prejudice for your audience: don't make direct fun of your characters, no matter how ridiculous, and ease the audience into the issues.

INTERVIEW BY  
JENNIFER RODGER

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Works gyms can be a good place to get ahead, but don't outrun the boss. By Annabel Venning

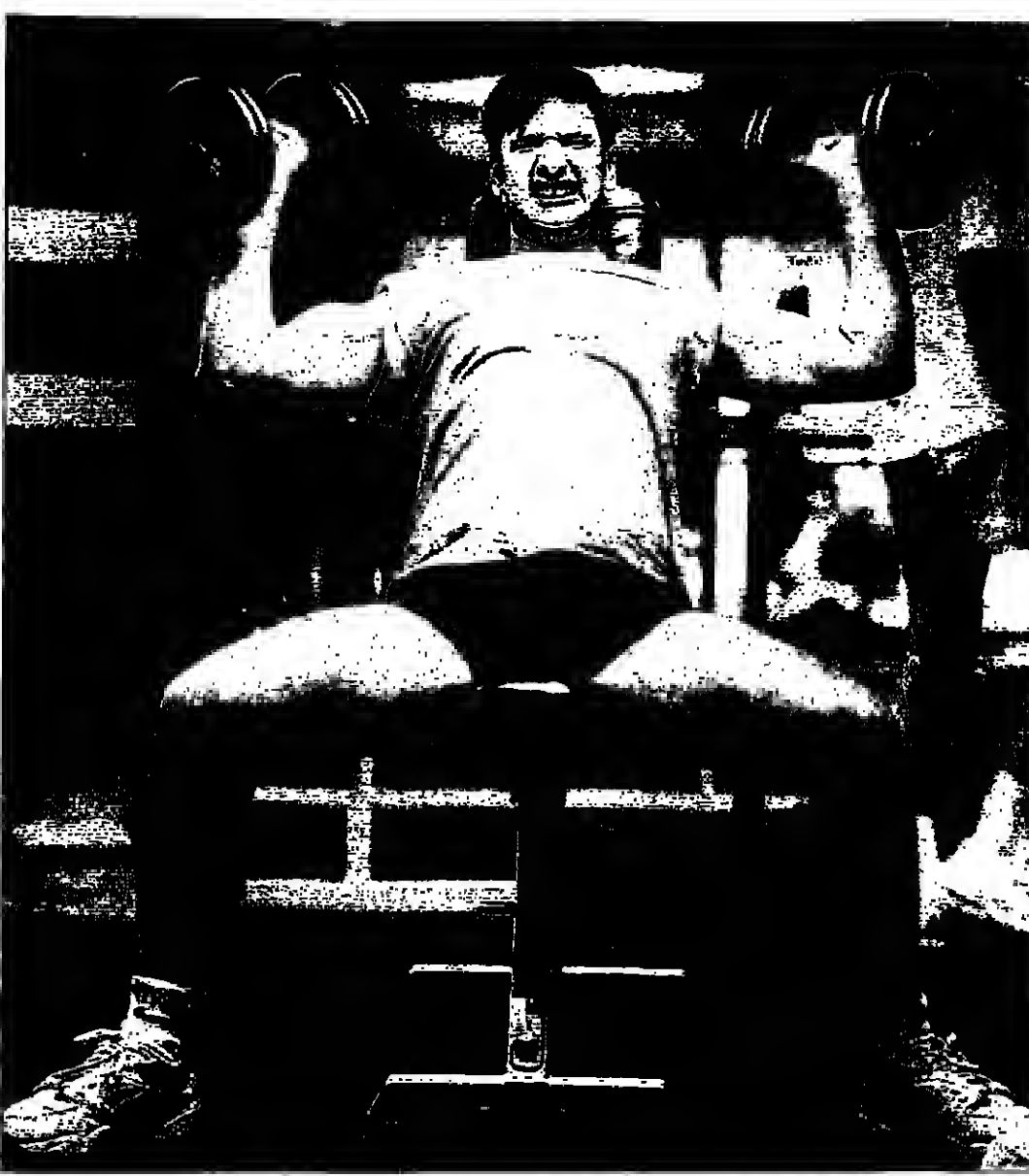
# Are you fit for the job?

**B**ill Clinton has a habit of inviting photographers along when he dons the presidential running shorts for a morning jog, a ritual that has become semi-obligatory for presidents and presidential hopefuls. It's a way of saying: "Look at me, I'm full of energy and stamina, always ready for action." (Although Monica Lewinsky could have told us that.) Likewise, Princess Diana's gym visits were integral to her compassionate-but-in-control image.

But it's not just presidents and princesses who see keeping fit as part of the job. British employers are increasingly setting up gyms in their office blocks, forming company sports clubs and football teams and offering employees corporate membership at a local fitness centre. The Ultimate in Fitness Ltd (which supplies exercise equipment) reports that demand from corporate clients has increased by a staggering 100 per cent in the past five years, while Granada Health and Fitness (which manages company gyms) reports that this area of their business is seeing an annual growth rate of 21 per cent.

So what can this trend offer the graduate recruit, apart from bigger biceps? Can climbing a Stairmaster help you climb the career ladder, or will beating your boss at squash backfire on you? The world of corporate sport, it seems, is a mixed blessing. According to Dai Williams, an occupational psychologist with EOS Career Services, the biggest benefit of fitness to graduates is its role as stress-buster. "In a highly pressured environment, personal fitness is essential - all the body's mechanisms for coping with stress are geared to being fit," she explains.

Indeed, City recruitment firms claim high-flying job-seekers are increasingly including sports facilities on their list of "fundamentals", alongside pensions and health insurance. After all, says Williams, it also has great social potential. "One of the greatest challenges for new recruits - particularly graduates - is establishing a social network."



Exercising in the company gym gives employers a positive impression of staff Philip Meech

Being seen to exercise and play sport also sends out the right messages, she adds. "It shows you're a positive person and that you recognise the value of having balance in your life. In addition, if you see your manager in the gym regularly, it

gives you something in common." The mistake all too many eager-to-please graduates make, however, is failing to recognise that few managers appreciate being tackled about business as they sit, legs splayed, on the hip-adductor. "Most

graduate recruits are dying to reveal to their boss how committed they are," explains Alison Matthews, an occupational psychologist. "But it's one of those unwritten rules that, whilst doing this during corporate drinks or dinners may be acceptable,

it certainly isn't when working out in the company gym."

Even more problematic is when the tables are turned. Amanda Webster, PA to an insurance broker, says of her boss in the changing rooms: "She acted like we were still in the office, even though we were both stark naked, which was very disconcerting. She'd towel-dry herself, bend over to touch her toes, and all the while talk about meetings. I had to stop going to the gym."

Nevertheless, Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at UMIST, claims there are solutions. Make a ground rule very early on with superiors that work is not to be discussed in the gym, he advises. "And if you do not have that type of relationship, or lack the social confidence to say it, then get the message over by always switching the topic away from work. Do not defer to him or her in the gym, or this will reinforce the hierarchies."

Playing competitive sports with colleagues may present a different set of difficulties. Charlie Pearson, a fund manager who plays squash at lunchtimes, finds that aggression can continue off-court. "There is one manager who is hostile to me for the whole day if I beat him," he remarks.

Professor Cooper claims this is by far the most risky aspect of corporate sport, and that the only answer is to stop playing. "If they bring their aggression from the squash court into work, that either says something about the culture they are operating in, or about them - that they are too achievement-driven." The same goes for team sports. Company games can have great potential for building team spirit, but they may also be counter-productive, raising your stress levels and threatening off-pitch relationships.

A final word of caution comes from one trainee solicitor whose relationship with a senior partner changed radically after seeing him at the swimming pool. "He always seemed very high-powered and suave in his expensive suits," she says. "Then I saw him at the pool and lost my awe: how could I respect a man who wore Speedos?"

## Clean the slate

IN 1959, a Castleford man named John Smith offered his local mayor £500 in a crass attempt to "persuade" him to use his influence to get the council to sell him some land. The affair reeked of corruption. Upholding his conviction, the Court of Appeal pointed out that this was just the kind of temptation that the law was designed to prevent. Corruption was an ordinary word that a jury could easily understand and needed simple legal expression.

### OUR LEARNED FRIEND



NICHOLAS PAUL

The disgrace of the International Olympic Committee members involved in the 2002 Winter Olympics affair and the saving of the European Commission speaks for itself. The acceptance of large sums of money and the appointment of cronies, combined with the unaccounted distribution of funds does not seem too far away from the story of the mayor of Castleford.

It would be comforting to know that in Britain we are well protected by the law against this kind of disgraceful behaviour. Yet the criminal law lacks clarity, is ancient and beset with problems.

Our corruption legislation was the result of a Royal Commission into the local government of London, which led to the Prevention of Corruption Act 1889. It was confined to public bodies and required a further Act in 1906 to include the private sector. Then in 1916, as a wartime measure, the law was changed to reverse the burden of proof in cases involving payment to public employees, so that it was for the defence to prove that a given payment was not corrupt.

The need for reform has become more urgent for two reasons. At the heart of most corruption cases is the "money gift or consideration". Once established, a presumption of guilt exists and an innocent explanation must be given. The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 abolished the "right to silence". Section 35

allows the jury to draw such inferences as appear proper from a defendant's failure to testify or answer a question. This makes the presumption unnecessary. Further it may be that this burden is in breach of Article 6(2) of the European Convention of Human Rights which provides that "Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law". The position on inferences from silence following the Northern Ireland case of *Murray v UK* is under review in pending cases. And if it can be argued that the presumption is effectively a form of coercion in the face of questioning then the legal position looks untenable.

The other concern is the pressing need to deal with the problem that corruption offences are to be found in 11 different statutes. The Law Commission has recommended a specific offence of bribery.

The strengthened police powers to investigate and seize material under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1994, the defence disclosure provisions under the Criminal Procedure and Investigation Act 1996 and permissible entry and interference with property provisions of the Police Act 1997 all enable the authorities to conduct a vigorous investigation and present a compelling case.

Forty years on the time has surely come to get it right.

Nicholas Paul is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers

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Closing date for applications is 9 April 1999.

## COUNTER FRAUD OPERATIONAL SERVICES



The Directorate of Counter Fraud Services was set up in September 1998 to counter all types of fraud and corruption within the National Health Service. It is currently implementing a comprehensive, integrated and professional strategy to combat fraud, integrating strategic and operational activity and recognising the importance of deploying specialist skills and experience. Team Leaders are now being recruited to assist in the management of a national Counter Fraud Operational Service. All Counter Fraud Officers will be based in Health Authorities and employed on Health Authority Terms and Conditions of service.

The successful applicants will ensure that all suspicions of fraud in the NHS are promptly investigated to the highest standards that appropriate disciplinary, civil or criminal sanctions are applied where fraud is proven, and that information discovered about process or policy weaknesses is provided to design fraud out of the system. The following posts require highly motivated and skilled individuals. Candidates for managerial posts should have direct specialist management experience in countering fraud and corruption in the public or private sector.

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For more details and an application form (to be returned by 9th April 1999), write to CPOS Co-ordinator, Directorate of Counter Fraud Services, Room 330, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS, or telephone 0171 210 5284, or fax 0171 210 5289. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

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12.00 Jo White. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacz. 9.00 The Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Chris Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
(88-90.2MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allen. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Take It Easy. California Cool. See *Pick of the Day*. 9.30 At the Beeb: Willie Rush. 10.00 The Alan Price Set. 10.30 Richard Allen. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Music Works.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert.  
2.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Paul Allen introduces a recital given last Thursday in the Bridgewater Hall by Japanese pianist Noriko Ogawa. Host: Piano Sonata in A minor, K310. Schumann: Davidsbündel, Op. 6.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.  
4.00 Ensemble.  
4.45 Music Machines. (R)  
5.00 In Tune.  
7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor Paavo Järvi, Alexander Madzar (piano), Stravinsky: Jeu de cartes. Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3. Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5.  
9.35 Postscript. Five programmes in which Ian Russell-Jones looks at attitudes to the body in our culture.  
4: The Hungry Heart. The medieval virtue of asceticism is still valued and practised in Mount St Bernard Abbey, near Leicester, by its community of strict Cistercian monks, who rise every morning at 3.15am to begin their day of prayer and work. But are the gym junkies of the 90s ascetics too?  
10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping introduces highlights of a concert given last month in the Wigmore

**PICK OF THE DAY**

**THE CHILEAN** author Ariel Dorfman is doing the rounds today, appearing first on In Our Time (9am, 9.30pm R4) and later on Night Waves (10.45pm R3). Expect insights into plays, politics and Pinochet.

**Automatic for the People** (9.30am R4) explores the deceased pastime of making vinyl recordings in public booths, and gives the crackly voices of

Yesterday's some belated airtime. What if? (8pm R4) ponders what might have happened if the German emperor Wilhelm I had been assassinated in 1878 and the liberal Frederick III had had a longer stint at the helm.

**Take It Easy - California Cool** (9pm R2) lets Andy Kershaw (right) gleefully surf the history of West Coast rock.

DOMINIC CAVENTISH



how China are bidding to become a force in rugby by recruiting players from the Red Army.

9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddie M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene.

9.30 Sports. This Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Int 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.5 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Hall, London, by the chamber ensemble Sonnerie.

10.45 Night Waves. Tim Marlow presents the arts and culture magazine. Guests include Ariel Dorfman, whose new novel, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, is the story of Gabriel McKersia, who was consigned to the night of Ch Guevara's death and who returns to Chile from Manhattan as the country prepares to mark the 50th anniversary of the European discovery of America. See *Pick of the Day*.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4**  
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today.  
9.00 NEWS. Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time: Radio 4 at the World. See *Pick of the Day*.  
9.45 Serial: Radio 4 at the World.  
10.00 NEWS. Women's Hour.  
11.00 NEWS. Crossing Continents.  
11.30 My Uncle Freddie.  
12.00 NEWS. You and Yours.  
1.00 The World at One.  
1.30 Open Country.  
2.00 NEWS. The Archers.  
2.25 Afternoon Play. Straw without Bricks.  
3.00 NEWS. Call You and Yours: 0570 070 0444.  
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal.  
3.30 The New Recruit.  
3.45 The Sceptred Isle.  
4.00 NEWS. Nice Work.  
4.30 The Material World.

The Word. Five stories about London life. 4: The Melting Bed by Emily Perkins. Lies can be hurtful but they can also be exciting. Dishonesty and its different effects are explored in this compelling story.

11.00 NEWS. The View It Is. Satire, sketches and a hard look behind the week's media events. Starring Simon Evans, Tracy-Anne Oberman, Dave Lamb and Chris Pavey.

11.30 Mercian Hymns. (R)

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Raymond Carver Short Stories. (R)

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

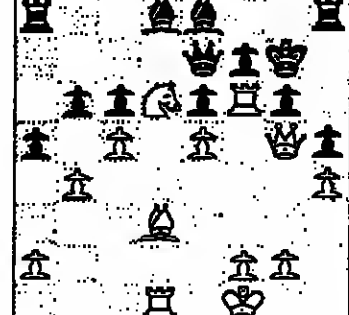
**RADIO 4 LW**  
(168kHz)  
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News. Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
(693, 909kHz MW)  
6.00 Breakfast.  
8.00 Nicky Campbell.  
12.00 The Midday News.  
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.  
4.00 Drive.  
7.00 News Extra.  
7.30 On the Line. In-depth investigation of controversial sporting issues. 8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Barnett looks into the latest issues affecting the world of sport. Including a special report from Francis Collins looking at

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

JON SPEELMAN



THE CENTRAL London Premier Congress, a new incarnation of the International Student House (ISH) tournament as was, took place at the ISH on 13-14 March. Three sections packed in no fewer than 269 players of whom 46 competed in the top event, the Premier for players rated under 210, which was won by Paul Georgiou (Barnet/Imperial College) with a perfect 5/5.

In the Major (for players rated less than 180) four out of a field of 116 ended up first equal on 4.5/5, including 10-year-old Murugan Thiruchelvam who this Sunday will play a six-game speed match with Jonathan Levitt in a bid to become the youngest player ever to become a grandmaster. (At the London Chess Centre, 369 Euston Road - there are no spectator facilities but I'll be reporting on it next week.)

The Minor, for players rated under 125, had 107 entrants. First place went to William D Bennett (Cambridge) who like Paul Georgiou in the Premier also made 5/5.

This is Georgiou's crucial last-round victory against Jovanka Houska. I'm grateful to him for the moves, and some nice variations.

In the opening Black should first capture e8... Bxc4 before g6 when if 10 e4 e5! the problem being that as played if 9... e4 10 e5! 12... Bc5 parried the threat of 13 Qx4 as 14 a3 winning the bishop, but White got a huge bind.

If 21... axb4 22 h5 g5 23 f4! Perhaps Black should have tried the vile 22... Bxd6 23 cxd6 Qd7 but she'd surely have lost. 23 Rd1 avoided the trap 23 Nxf7? Bxf7 24 Bxg6 Qxf6! 25 e6f6+ Bxf6.

In the diagram if 23... Qd7 24 Bxg6 Bxg6 25 Nxe8+ Qxe8 26 Rd7+

is easy; or as they found in the post mortem if 23... Rh6 24 cxb6 axb4 25 b7 Rb8 26 Be4 Qf8 tor 26... Qd7 27 Qc1 Bxb6 28 exd8+ Kh7 29 Nxe8 Qxe8 30 Bxc6 Qf8 31 Qf4 etc! 27 Bxc6 Bxc6 28 Rd7+! Qx7 29 Qxh6+! Kh6 30 Nxf7+ Kg7 31 Nxd8 Bds 32 Re1! moves.

After 24 Nxf7! it was all over - if 27... Bxg6 28 Rd7+ etc.

White: Paul Georgiou  
Black: Jovanka Houska  
Queen's Gambit Semi-Slav

1 d4 d5 20 b4 a5  
2 c4 e6 21 Rf8 h5  
3 Nf3 c6 22 Qg5 Bd8  
4 Nc3 Nf6 23 Rd1 (see diagram)  
5 Bg5 h6 24... axb4  
6 Bxf6 Qxf6 25 Nxf7 Bxf7  
7 e5 Nd7 26 Bxg6 Qxf6  
8 Bxf6 g5! 27 Bxg6 Qxf6  
9 e4 exd4 28 exd4+ Bxf6  
10 Nxe8 Bb4+ 29 Qg5 Rh8  
11 Kf1 Qe7 28 Bxf7+ Kxf7  
12 c5 Bc5 29 Qc7+ Kg6  
13 Nd6+ Kb8 30 Rxd8 Rxd8  
14 Ne5 Kd8 31 exd6 Rxd2  
15 dxe5 Be7 32 h7 Rxe2  
16 h4 Bd7 33 b8Q Ra1+  
17 Rh3 Be8 34 Ke2 Ra2+  
18 Qg4 b6 35 Kf3 1-0  
19 Rf3 Kg7

### BLACKJACK

DAVID SPANIER

BLACKJACK is the only casino game you can beat. The technique known as "counting" is based on keeping track of the cards as they are dealt so as to increase the size of your bets when the remaining cards in the shoe are favourable, that is, when there are more tens than low cards left.

A lot of people count, but few succeed. Why? Because the casinos, who fear and detest counters, give them "heat", by shuffling up the deck - or banning the players altogether. It's a continual struggle for players to disguise their skill and avoid detection and, at the same time, last out the inevitable losing runs. The advantage of counting is only about 1 per cent.

Two new books on the subject may be highly recommended. One is *Burning the Tables in Las Vegas* by Ian Andersen, a comprehensive and well-written account of the state of the art, in all its aspects. The hook is a sequel to the classic *Turning the Tables*, published in the Seventies, which focused on casino deportment. Obviously, much has changed since then. The new book covers psychological aspects of the game, which are, in fact, essential to master as a counter to the maths of counting.

The other new book is a short paperback called *Knock-Out*

*Blackjack*. The authors, Olaf Vancura and Ken Fuchs, claim to have devised a revolutionary new counting system that "eliminates the mountain of mental arithmetic necessary to win at blackjack". "Everything should be as simple as possible, but not more so," the authors quote Einstein. Having met Dr Vancura, who is a sort of mathematical genius, I have no doubt (without trying it out myself) that their system will work. But beware - counting is not a fun way to make a living. The long hours, the loneliness, the constant hassle to outwit the casinos, takes a very heavy toll on players, and defeats most of them.

Andersen says he has not made his living exclusively in the casinos. He still spends 500 hours a year playing more than 50,000 hands, but divides his time in managing his share portfolio. Here in Britain, the rules of the game are slightly different (to the detriment of the player) from America. On the other hand, there is no tipping of dealers.

*Burning the Tables in Las Vegas, keys to success in blackjack and in life*, by Ian Andersen, £27.95; *Knock-Out Blackjack*, by Olaf Vancura and Ken Fuchs, £17.95; *Hunting Press, 3687 South Procyon Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103.*

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

**SKY PREMIER**  
6.00 Star Trek II: the Search for Spock (1984) (4018). 8.00 The Stone Boy (1984) (38554). 10.00 The Bombardier (1985) (38554). 12.00 The Directors (1984). See *Pick of the Day*. 1.00 Forever Fables (1991). 2.00 The Stone Boy (1984) (7125). 4.00 The Bombardier (1985) (2558380). 5.45 Star Trek II: the Search for Spock (1984) (6629483). 7.30 Tracey Takes On... (1981). 8.00 Hollywood Buzz (1987). 8.30 Photographing Fairies (1997) (1948485). See *Pick of the Day*. 10.45 Donnie Brasco (1997) (8478458). 12.20 Mary Reilly (1998) (873539). 2.00 The Proprietor (1997) (782322). 4.05 - 6.00 Never Talk to Strangers (1995) (377591).

**SKY MOVIECLASH**  
7.00 Guevara (1993) (1813). 9.00 Son of Godalla (1997) (84748). 11.00 A Holiday for Love (1998) (60380). 1.00 Guevara (1993) (86564). 3.00 Son of Godalla (1997) (82038). 5.00 A Holiday for Love (1998) (86545). 7.00 Alien Nation: The Udera Legacy (1997) (25533). 8.00 Defenders: Choices of Evil (1997) (84533). 11.00 Viper (1994) (89477). 12.35 Marked for Death (1993) (81232). 2.30 Laws of Gravity (1992) (83794). 3.30 Death Hunt (1991) (28197). 5.30 - 7.00 See Devil's (1997) (8971).

**SKY CINEMA**  
4.00 Red (1994) (525894). 6.35 Go West, Young Man (1939) (3328584). 8.00 Gunfight at the O.K. Corral (1957) (212545). 10.00 The Beguiled (1971) (19458). 11.50 West with a Dark (1957) (140483). 1.45 Heat and Dust (1983) (870315). 3.55 My Little Chickadee (1940) (251333). 5.35 Close.

**FILMFOUR**  
6.00 Robin and Marian (1976) (1167903). 7.50 Sunny Spells (244923). 8.00 Get Shorty (1995) (663494). 9.30 Crowl (202978). 10.00 Other People's Money (1991) (588830). 11.45 The Tyrannical Man (1997) (792313). 1.40 Southern Comfort (1981) (840355). 3.30 - 6.00 The Dead Zone (1983) (145775).

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
4.00 Rex Hunt's Flying Adventures (1970/77). 4.30 A River Somewhere (1976/81). 5.00 Secret Fists (1997/02). 6.00 Wildlife SOS (1976/81). 9.30 United Africa (1988/93). 12.30 Futureworld (1970/83). 8.00 Discover Magazine (1978/83). 8.00 Science Frontiers (1988/89). 10.00 Super Structures

**PICK OF THE DAY**

**TOBY STEPHENS** comes from fine acting stock - his father was Robert Stephens and his mother is Maggie Smith. He plays the lead in *Photographing Fairies* (8.30pm Sky Premier), Nick Willing's satellite premiere about Charles Castle, a Victorian photographer who sets out to undermine claims that a collection of photos depict supernatural phenomena. The excellent cast includes Frances Barber, Edward Hardwicke,

Ben Kingsley and Emily Wolf. *The Big Chill* (trigh), a moving story about the changes that have taken place in the lives of a group of friends some years after they have all left college, is perhaps the seminal work by film-maker Lawrence Kasdan. His career, which went on to feature such films as *Silverado* and *French Kiss*, is analysed in today's edition of *The Directors* (12noon Sky Premier).

JAMES RAMPTON



(8463458). 11.00 Forensic Detectives (835030). 12.00 Hoover Dam (1901539). 1.00-2.00 Secret Fists (255030).

**SKY ONE**  
7.00 Count Duckula (1993). 7.30 The Circle Game (1997). 8.00 The Circle Game (1997). 8.30 The Circle Game (1997). 9.00 The Circle Game (1997). 9.30 The Circle Game (1997). 10.00 The Circle Game (1997). 10.30 The Circle Game (1997). 11.00 The Circle Game (1997). 11.30 The Circle Game (1997). 12.00 The Circle Game (1997). 12.30 The Circle Game (1997). 1.00 The Circle Game (1997). 1.30 The Circle Game (1997). 2.00 The Circle Game (1997). 2.30 The Circle Game (1997). 3.00 The Circle Game (1997). 3.30 The Circle Game (1997). 4.00 The Circle Game (1997). 4.30 The Circle Game (1997). 5.00 The Circle Game (1997). 5.30 The Circle Game (1997). 6.00 The Circle Game (1997). 6.30 The Circle Game (1997). 7.00 The Circle Game (1997). 7.30 The Circle Game (1997). 8.00 The Circle Game (1997). 8.30 The Circle Game (1997). 9.00 The Circle Game (1997). 9.30 The Circle Game (1997). 10.00 The Circle Game (1997). 10.30 The Circle Game (1997). 11.00 The Circle Game (1997). 11.30 The Circle Game (1997). 12.00 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## TELEVISION REVIEW



THINK: Is a tendency in British to assume that we are immune from the extremes of left- and right-wing politics. Not because of our highly developed civic culture and respect for democracy, but because of our highly developed senses of the ridiculous. Hitler would never have got anywhere here, the argument goes, because he'd have been laughed out of court. The line of thinking goes back at least to the Second World War, when the British sense of humour was regularly invoked as a secret weapon against the square-headed Germans. It's earlier, self-congratulatory argument, and perhaps gets things the wrong way round. Because fascism has never got a political foothold in Britain – thanks largely to our first-past-the-post electoral system – we can't do much at it in a way that other countries can't. But whatever way round you put it, the truth is that for all their lightness and videofascism, British fascists remain irredeemably humourless. This was nicely demonstrated in *The Last Reich* (BBC2), in which Johnny Jenkins traced the rise and fall of the National Front and the various splinter groups that succeeded it.

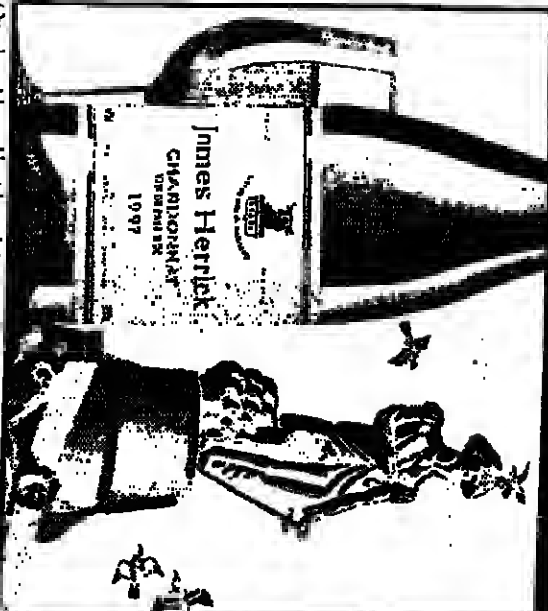
The film began grimly enough, in Leicester in the early 1970s, when an influx of Asian refugees from India's Amrits region so alarmed the local council that they took out an advert in a Ugandan paper urging them to stay away from the city. Asian displaced people were persecuted – widows burned, the elderly – and support for the NF mushroomed.

But this heading was never converted into electoral success, at the zenith in 1978 the NF put up 300 candidates, and every single one lost its deposit. From here on in, the story was pure apocryphs of relevance in response to the electoral defeat, which the NF leadership blamed on the Zionist conspiracy, the party turned to religious revival, NF activists were reborn as "Political Soldiers", determined to inspire others by the strength of their convictions (which were mainly for violence and drunkenness). Recruitment plummeted.

In an attempt to win it all in a electoral house, the NF then tried appealing to black voters, hoping for an alliance with inner-segregationist blacks. Furtherback: This cult war. They even wooed the Jewish community at various points the party fell apart. New leaders sprung up, including the Third Position, which wanted to get in touch with the soil of the lands. It did this by moving to a "commune" in France, through John's (in his imagination) to a couple of years later, where a bunch of people, including himself, Third Way, which abandoned notions of Zionist conspiracy to concentrate on grassroots issues such as keeping public houses open. The realists part of the organisation became the British National Party – and here, I have to say, the jokes get on a rail.

On balance, however, the film was shockingly lighthearted, and surely, in making fascism ridiculous, it did more to weaken it than any number of marches or demonstrations.

LONDON'S LIKE  
THE SOUTH OF FRANCE,  
WHEN IT'S POURING.



the glass of James Patrick, and the capital is perfect in Alchermarran's undimmed  
 (trifery; full of taste. *Alchermarran*, as they say in Alchermarran, is a perfect

# Channel 5

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FILM OF THE DAY



**THE DAY BRITAIN TUNED DISCO** (10pm ITV). It was 21 years ago this month that *Saturday Night Fever* (1977) was released in Britain, an anniversary celebrated suitably garish detail here. This film features a ragging collection of disco hits and interviews with their multitrack devotees, all linked by the thesis that British disco copied what came from awfully American ones. Rescued producer Peter Waterman, presenter (Chic?) Baker and old-age penpal Peter Strickland are among the assembled nutcrackers holding court, as are a good number of the cast of *Fourplay* Joe Strummer.



**THE FOUR SEASONS** (1150pm B3C) *6/6/97* Alan Alda directed and starred in this amusing comedy drama about three sets of middle-class wacky-coupled couples. This dissection of adult relationships was never likely to generate a riddle for him, but the dialogue trips along nicely and the performers while not exactly astonishing, help to leave a potentially stodgy nut. Carol Burnett is rather fine as Alda's screen wife, while the writer/director/producer is at his most effective in front of the camera as the couples are variously shaken when one man leaves his wife and introduces a younger female member into the mix.

**TELEVISION GUIDE BY PETER CONCHIE**

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